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Haifa 16-24  
Ashdod 16-24  
Beer Sheva 16-24  
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**The New York Times**

**Europe's New Order**

8-page supplement

**Cantona says: It's enough**

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## Hammer restores exam lottery

**By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and film**

After receiving a civics lesson of sorts from the nation's high school seniors, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer backed down yesterday and held a matriculation exam lottery after all. This determined that history, Hebrew, and civics would be the three exams the nation's 69,000 high school seniors will not have to take this year.

Hammer, who is abroad, said through spokesmen that he had changed his mind, because it is important to him that students soon entering the IDF not lose their confidence in the nation's institutions, especially the Education Ministry. Hammer also consulted on the matter with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who supported his decision.

There were handshakes and smiles all around in the Education Ministry hall where the computerized drawing of the subjects was held. This ended a week of protests by pupils, who had rallied parents groups, teachers, and MKs to their cause ever since Hammer's surprise cancellation of the lottery just before it was to be held last Thursday.

It was two of the pupils, along with a school principal, who ultimately determined the fate of their classmates, clicking on a computer mouse to activate a ministry program which selected the "lucky" subject, in an atmosphere that was pure Lotto-mania.

As cameras whirred and pupils throughout the nation held their breath, Yehzekel Gabbal, principal of Jerusalem's Rene Cassin High School and representing the Principals' Association, took the plunge and sent a computerized book on a video screen flipping open to reveal that civics was out.

**See HAMMER, Page 8**



National Student and Youth Council spokesman Galit Eliasi clicks a computer mouse to eliminate Hebrew from the list of this year's high school matriculation exams yesterday, as Education Ministry officials look on.

## Indyk: Oslo has broken down

**By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN, MARGOT DUKKEVITCH, and agencies**

The 1993 peace deal reached at Oslo between the PLO and Israel's former government has foundered, US Ambassador Martin Indyk told the US-Israel Chamber of Commerce yesterday.

"The core bargain of Oslo has broken down - Israel was promised security and the Palestinians were promised self-government," Indyk said, as Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu listened.

Netanyahu said in response that trust resides in keeping deals. He accused the Palestinians of violating accords that Israel observed.

US National Security Adviser Samuel Berger, meanwhile, brushed off a Palestinian call for President Bill Clinton to intervene dramatically in the peace process. "Presidential involvement is happening every day," Berger said on CNN. "The point here is not dramatic moments; the point here is progress in the peace process. And the parties themselves have to be prepared to make the kinds of compromises, the kinds of commitments, that would make a dramatic moment not only dramatic but successful."

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat sent Clinton a letter on Friday declaring US special envoy Dennis Ross's latest mission a failure and asking Clinton to intervene personally in Israeli-Palestinian talks.

Meanwhile, defense officials said yesterday that plans to raze hundreds of illegally built Palestinian homes in the West Bank are ongoing and out part of a new program to prevent Palestinians from creating facts on the ground ahead of the resumption of final status negotiations.

"There are certainly hundreds of structures, not all of them built this year, which are in the process of legal proceedings to demolish them because they are illegally built," said Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the coordinator of activities in the territories.

"We are not talking of thousands, but a few hundred over the past two or three years," Dror said.

**See INDYK, Page 2**

## Deri: Avi-Yitzhak sought deal for Justice Ministry

**By SARAH HONIG**

Shas Party leader Aryeh Deri asserted yesterday that his former attorney, Dan Avi-Yitzhak, had sought a plea bargain for him just after the last elections, so he could cease defending him and become justice minister.

The deal fell through, Deri said, after it became clear Avi-Yitzhak would not get the job. Avi-Yitzhak vehemently denied Deri's claims.

Deri also denied he is pushing for former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman's return to the ministry, though he admitted advising Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi to cede his portfolio.

Deri told Israel Radio there had been an attempt to "bid his prolonged, still ongoing trial for fraud and bribery with a plea bargain,

"but that it was not connected with the Bar-On case, as is so widely supposed. It all happened far earlier before [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu formed his government. My lawyer, then Dan Avi-Yitzhak, told me he expected to get the Justice portfolio, and to do that he would have to somehow be freed of his commitment to me.

"He told me that to facilitate his entry into the government, he had spoken about my case with then attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair. Ben-Yair was ecstatic about the prospect of Avi-Yitzhak as justice minister and agreed to help him get the job. He offered a plea bargain wherein I would be convicted of a misdemeanor breach of trust charge," Deri said.

**See DERI, Page 4**

## Second Palestinian land dealer murdered

**News agencies**

The body of Palestinian land dealer Harbi Abu Sara, 46, of Ein Yabrud, near Ramallah, was found in Ramallah on Friday. He had been shot several times in the head.

Family members denied Abu Sara had sold land to Jews and blamed the murder, but Palestinian Police sources denied involvement.

On Friday night, Palestinian Police received an anonymous call saying there was a man's body in Ramallah. Police discovered Abu Sara's body, which they kept until yesterday, contrary to accepted Moslem practice.

Meanwhile, Fariq Bashiti, 70, of east Jerusalem, who was found dead May 9 in Ramallah, his skull crushed, hands tied behind his back and mouth sealed with plastic tape, was buried yesterday.

Ikrama Sabri, the chief Moslem cleric in Jerusalem, had declared Bashiti an infidel for selling land to Jews and said he could not be buried in a Moslem cemetery in Jerusalem.

The family staged a burial Sunday in Nebi Musa, east of Jerusalem, announcing to police and reporters that the body had been buried there and shoveling sand atop what they said was the grave, marked by an unlettered stone.

But Assem Bashiti said later that his uncle actually had been buried Sunday in a secret location.

## Police crack drive-test corruption ring

**By DAVID RUDGE**

Police arrested 13 driving examiners - almost a third of those in the North - and five instructors yesterday on suspicion of being involved in what has been described as one of the biggest bribery and corruption cases of its kind. Police said more arrests are expected and that up to 100 other driving instructors would be questioned.

According to senior northern region police officers, over the past few years thousands of students have received licenses after their driving instructors bribed their examiners. Some of them have subsequently been involved in road accidents, including fatalities, the officers said.

The examiners are suspected of taking bribes from instructors to pass their students in both theory and driving tests. Students reportedly paid large sums to instructors in advance, so that at the end of their lessons they would pass.

According to the allegations, the students themselves were for the most part unaware of the "special arrangements" between the instructors and the examiners.

Dep.-Cmdr. Yitzhak Bashan, head of a special police unit, said a covert inquiry was launched several months ago. The arrests were carried out throughout the North, including Haifa, Acre, Nabariya, Karmiel, Nazareth, Afula, and the Galilee. The suspects are to be brought before Haifa Magistrate's Court this morning for remand hearings.

According to police, the system of payment for passes has operated for at least six years and involved hundreds of thousands of shekels and thousands of drivers.

Police suspicions reportedly were further aroused by the lifestyles of some of the examiners.

**See DRIVE-TEST, Page 9**

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## NEWS

in brief

### Two drown in first week of bathing season

Little more than a week after the bathing season began, two people have already drowned and one was saved. Mageo David Adom reported yesterday.

According to MDA statistics, a total of 182 people drowned between 1993 and 1995 - 140 of them in the sea, 30 in swimming pools, and the rest elsewhere.

Of the victims, 136 were male, 18 percent were under 12 and 6.5% were over 70. Over a third of the drownings occurred after sunset. In 70% of the incidents, resuscitation efforts were made, and 62% of them were brought alive to a hospital emergency room. *Judy Siegel*

### High Court refers Geula Amir to police

In response to a petition from Geula Amir, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday that she should file a complaint with the police if she thinks Avishai Raviv should be charged with attempting to murder prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and attempting to injure politicians and other public figures. The court also ordered Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to respond within 10 days to the inquiries Amir has submitted to his office. Along with her petition, Amir, whose son Yigal assassinated Rabin, submitted a 1994 photograph of Raviv holding her son's pistol and wearing a shirt with a picture of Rabin and the words, "No sanctuary for traitors." *Tim*

### Greek FM arrives today

Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos arrives today. During his two-day stay, he will meet with President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Foreign Minister David Levy and Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon. He also will visit the Palestinian Authority. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

### Knesset to mark Arad's 39th birthday

A special gathering in the Knesset's lecture hall tomorrow at 2 p.m. will mark the 39th birthday of missing Israel Air Force navigator Ron Arad. Computer users around the world are invited to participate with MKs via real-time on-line chats through the Ron Arad multimedia website at [www.ron-arad.org.il](http://www.ron-arad.org.il). Senior members of the British Parliament and German Bundestag will participate as well via broadcast satellite, closed-circuit video conference, and Internet links. *Judy Siegel*

## INDYK

Continued from Page 1

"It is routine work ... and there is nothing new about it," he said. He noted that Israel had demolished 140 homes last year and this year had so far demolished 80. He ruled out the possibility of destroying another 500 by the end of the year, as Israel Radio had reported.

Dror said no steps are planned against Jewish settlers at Yitzhar for the moment, since they and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai are working on a solution to the illegal structures erected there.

"We must stress, however, that anyone who builds a home without a permit risks demolition," Dror said.

Yitzhar secretary Yehuda Liebman said last night that 10 families are living on the hilltop, some in makeshift houses and others in tents. Since three houses were demolished by the army two weeks ago.

Dror said the Palestinian homes slated for destruction are usually considered a security risk since

they are near military bases, bypass roads, or Jewish settlements. He also said houses would be destroyed if built on state land. If built without authorization elsewhere, then the intention, Dror said, is to let it be. He also flatly denied that anyone had been living in the homes destroyed.

"There are illegal houses throughout the area under our authority," said Lt. Peter Lerner, spokesman for the Civil Administration in Judea and Samaria, "but there is no new plan to demolish 500 houses."

He added, however, that there are ongoing plans to demolish "hundreds" of homes built without authorization and that these plans are approved regularly by Mordechai. All the homes are in the Israeli-controlled area C, he said.

"These houses are in the process of demolition," Lerner said.

Last week Arafat prescoted Ross a list of 1,300 families who had received demolition orders. Ross was reportedly surprised by the size of the list and raised the matter in his meeting with Mordechai.

# IAF warplanes pound targets

## Raids on Hizbullah carry into third straight day

By DAVID RUDGE

IAF warplanes blasted Hizbullah targets in southern parts of Lebanon's Bekaa valley for the third day running yesterday.

The air raid was directed at targets in the Beir a-Diyar region, north of the security zone, which was the scene of the clash between IDF troops and Hizbullah gunmen late on Thursday night in which three paratroopers were killed and seven wounded.

The IDF Spokesman said the pilots reported direct hits on the targets and that all the planes returned safely to their bases.

Yesterday's air raid occurred shortly after Capt. Eran Shamir, 22, of Mazkeret Batya, was laid to rest at the military cemetery in his home community - a week after he, his mother, brother and sister had visited the grave of his father, who was killed in an IDF training accident 20 years ago.

Shamir, the deputy commander of the elite paratroop unit that was involved in the clash, was eulogized by his senior officer, Maj. Monti, who was wounded in the same incident. Hundreds of people, including Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, attended the funeral.

The funerals of the other two soldiers killed in the clash - Staff-Sgt. Ze'ev Zommerfeld, 20, of

Asseret, and Staff-Sgt. Ran Mezuman, 22, of Tiberias - were held on Friday.

The air raid yesterday followed further long-range mortar attacks on South Lebanese Army outposts in the zone's western and eastern sectors. There were no casualties in the attacks and IDF gunners returned fire.

Three of those wounded in Thursday's clash were still in Haifa's Rambam Hospital yesterday. The rest were taken to Safed's Rebecca Sieff Hospital, where two were released after treatment.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine told reporters in the North yesterday that the IDF would continue to initiate operations in and north of the zone, wherever and whenever necessary. Levine also warned that all those who tried to hit the IDF would themselves be hit, including the Lebanese Army.

He said Lebanese Army troops had fired anti-aircraft weapons in Thursday's incident while Hizbullah gunmen only had fired mortars and machine guns, ineffectually.

He spoke to reporters at a ceremony in Kiryat Shmona to mark the start of the annual Golani Brigade march from Mt. Hermon to Eilat. The soldiers are expected to reach Eilat on Thursday.



Dassy Shamir, the mother of Capt. Eran Shamir, 22, is surrounded by his comrades yesterday at his funeral in Mazkeret Batya. (Israel Sun)

## IAF taking steps to reduce Stella, Stinger SAM danger

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Hizbullah guerrillas are equipped with shoulder-fired Stella and Stinger anti-aircraft SAM missiles, which is forcing the IAF to alter its activities in the south Lebanon.

"In no way will this paralyze the activity of the IAF," said former OC air force Maj.-Gen. (res.) Avihu Ben-Nun. He said that there were ways to reduce the SAM threat through technical means, and by changing the routine, but he did not elaborate.

"The main way of dealing with the Stella is not to keep to a routine," Ben-Nun said.

He said that the aircraft must be visible to shoot it down, so flying without lights helps.

Just two weeks ago, Brig.-Gen. Eli Amital, the commander of IDF forces in Lebanon, said that his troops had discovered 17 Stella missiles hidden in a cave in the Litani area.

The Russian-built Stella, also known as the SA-14 and SA-16, has a range of 2-3 miles and is only effective against targets flying lower than 8,000 feet. It is heat-seeking missile and does not require radar guidance, so pilots get no warning when a Stella is launched at them. Its simple fire-and-forget operation requires little training to use.

The similar US-manufactured Stinger is credited with changing the tide of the war in Afghanistan against the Russians. The CIA gave the Mujahadeen hundreds of the Stingers and after the war tried to buy them back, reportedly offering up to \$200,000 apiece. But many disappeared and are believed to have made their way to Iran. Some of these missiles may even be in the hands of Hizbullah.

To combat the Stellas and Stingers, aircraft emit flares, fly higher, and avoid routine. Newer helicopters, like the US-made

Apache, are designed with engine baffles which deflect the heat away from the chopper, and that has proven effective against the missiles heat-seeking warhead. But the older Bell and even the Cobra are more vulnerable.

Despite the reports of anti-aircraft missiles surfacing lately, the IAF has traditionally assumed them to exist in south Lebanon and deployed in accordance.

"We have known about this," former deputy defense minister MK Ori Orr (Labor) told Israel Radio. "The IDF has to continue to use the air force and will continue to evacuate wounded and attack, but attack in a more cautious way."

"The IDF can and has to use its helicopters. Just as we continue to send soldiers on attacks under threat of ambushes, and just like the armor operates under Sagger missile threat, the air force is part of the same army and will operate under the same kind of dangers."

## Salameh pleads guilty

Hassan Salameh, considered the Hamas mastermind behind three suicide bombings, pleaded guilty to 46 counts of murder yesterday in Beit El Military Court.

Salameh, considered No. 2 in the military wing of Hamas, was charged with planning several sui-

cide bombings and supplying the bombs used in them.

He was also charged with an attempt to kidnap a soldier, membership in Izzadin Kassam, illegal weapons possession, and making bombs.

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## Alleged Russian underworld boss remanded 12 more days

By RAINE MARCUS

Zvi Ben-Ari, the Ashkelon multimillionaire alleged by police to be one of the heads of the so-called Russian mafia, was remanded for an additional 12 days by Peah Tikva Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Ben-Ari, known in his native Russia as Gregory Lerner, is refusing to cooperate with investigators and emphatically denies any connection with organized crime.

But the National Crimes Squad believes that Ben-Ari, who has reportedly contributed hundreds of thousands of shekels to charities, the Ashkelon Municipality, and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky's Yisrael Ba'alyona Party during the election campaign, is a powerful and dangerous figure. Police sources say he is responsible for an \$85 million bank fraud, the murder of a banker in Russia, and conspiring to murder other bankers who refused to give him money to open a bank here.

The sources said police expect to question certain ministers and politicians regarding the source of their political contributions.

Chief Supt. Zion Sasson testified yesterday that Ben-Ari's methods included creating straw companies in the hope of obtaining money from Russian banks. Some money was given by Russian financial institutions with the aim of forming a bank here.

But Ben-Ari, who had already



Zvi Ben-Ari (Ronen Engel/Israel Sun)

become a major police target here because of his allegedly shady past in Russia, was refused permission by the Bank of Israel to open a bank here. He then turned to former Bank of Israel employees to help him open banking institution. Until six months ago he operated an investment company in Tel Aviv, before moving it to Herzliya Pituah.

Much of the information on Ben-Ari was provided by Russian police, together with the Israel Police representative in Moscow, Chief Supt. Aharon Tal.

Ben-Ari's lawyer, Penina Devorin, argued in court that police here have no legal right to investigate alleged crimes committed abroad, and therefore had no right to arrest him. She also argued that allegations of money laundering could not be investigated here, since there is no law against it.

Five of Ben-Ari's workers - Ilana Rubinstein, Felix Heiminsky, Fabel Slutsky, Victor Fabrik, and Natalia Luzinska - also appeared for a further remand hearing yesterday. They are suspected of being accessories in the fraud scam and murder.

## Mordechai wants two new settlements in the Negev

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai wants to establish two Nahal settlements in the northern Negev as part of a dual effort to boost Zionist values among the youth and to strengthen settlement in the southern Hebron hills.

The two settlements - Yair and Sansone - both would be just inside the Green Line, straddling the main Beersheba-Hebron highway.

Mordechai plans to bring the plan before the cabinet for approval shortly, his office said. The settlements will belong to the paramilitary Nahal units and come under the responsibility of the Defense Ministry and Jewish Agency. It is the latest of a number

of steps organized by the Youth and Nahal branch of the Defense Ministry, headed by Brig.-Gen. (res.) Yehuda Duvedvani, who took over just a few months ago.

According to the Defense Ministry, the residents of Yair and Sansone would participate in patrolling the borders and farming state land in the Negev as well as engage in community activities.

"Setting up the two outposts in coordination with the Nahal and youth movements will put new challenges and goals for youth movement members and will significantly revive settlement in the Negev as a national endeavor of the highest priority," a statement from Mordechai's office said.

## ARRIVALS

FOR THE ANNUAL meeting of the Board of Governors of Tel Aviv University: From Argentina: Silvia & Ernesto Gallarin for the inauguration of Myriam Lebach Chair in Molecular Neurodegeneration, Cuqui & Sergio Grosookop. From Austria: Prof. Dr. Michael J. Higatzberg, Christl Langsiedlinger, Edith & George Katz. From Brazil: Deborah & Tomas Tichauer. From Germany: Ernst Gerhardt, Prof. Andreas Heldrich, Nicole & Dr. David Lischorn, An Schach, Dr. Elisabeth Schell-Friedrich & Prof. Dr. Jostel S. Schell to receive an Honorary Doctorate from Tel Aviv University. From Italy: Gabriela & Dan Davidi. From Switzerland: Eva & Dr. Brance Weiss for the inauguration of the Branco Weiss Chair for Research in Child Development and Education. From United Kingdom: Samuel Sebba, Manja Leigh, Jehn Porter, Gerald Weteleld. From United States: Camille & Arnon Adar, Dan Bocher & Dr. Zippora Williams, Joni & David M. Brown, Anna & William Cohan, Prof. Mark Ratner, Jerome J. Shectack. From Sweden: Inga-Lit & Bo Sellmuler. From Venezuela: Meris Curiel, Mary & Simon Seran.

# Azzam's lawyer assaulted in Egyptian court

CAIRO (AP) - The Egyptian lawyer of Azzam, the Israeli citizen accused of spying for Israel, was assaulted and called a traitor in a courtroom yesterday by fellow lawyers angered at his decision to take the case.

Farid Deeb was seated in the front row of the courtroom, when one of the lawyers walked up and punched him at least once in the face. The lawyer, who was not identified, was restrained by court security and Deeb's bodyguards before being escorted out.

But scuffles soon broke out in the courtroom between Deeb's supporters and lawyers angry at what they said was his decision to volunteer to defend Azzam for a big fee.

There was no word on whether police made any arrests.

The disturbance took place after Judge Mohamed Barweesh adjourned the hearing until June 14 and left the courtroom.

During the 20-minute hearing, the prosecution repeated its charges and both Azzam and his codefendant again denied them. If convicted, they could face the death penalty.

During an earlier short recess, lawyers Mustafa Mansour and Nabeeh Wahsh called Deeb a traitor and then began to shout insults at an Israeli diplomat attending the hearing.

"You despicable Israeli, you dog," shouted Mansour at Embassy First Secretary David Govrin. He later shouted abuse about Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, calling him a murderer and a dog.

Mansour, a former judge, blamed Govrin for starting the squabble by saying Mansour was speaking nonsense to reporters.

Govrin denied this, saying "It was pure provocation. Egyptian security did not do anything to stop him and others from cursing our prime minister. It is a shame."

After the assault on Deeb, Govrin, and members of Azzam's family rushed out of the courtroom under the protection of police and bodyguards.

Deeb has been ordered to appear on June 11 before a disciplinary committee set up by the Lawyers' Syndicate for agreeing to defend Azzam without first notifying the union.

The Lawyers' Syndicate, like most trade and professional unions in Egypt, opposes any dealings with Israel before a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement is in place.

Azzam's co-defendants in the case are Israeli Arab women Zahra Yousef Ireis and Mona Ahmed Shawahna, who are being tried in absentia, and Egyptian schoolteacher Emad Abdel-Hamid Ismail.

Prosecutors have alleged that the two women were Israeli agents who recruited Ismail to spy on Egypt. The indictment states that the women slept with Ismail, who at one point worked at a factory in Israel, after meeting him at an Israeli nightclub.

Azzam, who worked in a textile company near Cairo at the time of his arrest in November, is alleged by the prosecutors to have given Ismail women's underwear soaked in invisible ink to be used for writing secret messages to Israel.

# Bar-Ilan to be closed during Shabbat prayers

By ELLI WOHLGELERWITZ

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy (NRP) ruled yesterday that Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan can be closed to traffic during prayer services on Shabbat and holidays.

In a compromise decision, Levy decided that secular residents will be issued stickers from the municipality to place on their cars, entitling them to enter and leave the area even during the closed hours. Signs will be posted informing motorists of the hours when the ban on vehicular traffic is in effect, replacing previous metallic barriers.

The new policy is to go into effect this Shabbat.

The ruling by Levy follows a High Court decision on April 13, in which the court overturned Levy's original ruling on the street's closing, saying a solution must be found for the neighborhood's secular residents.

Supreme Court President Aharon Barak had suggested the issuing of the special permits as a compromise solution to the problem, which would meet the court's requirements.

Bar-Ilan will be closed for one hour and 45 minutes from the beginning of Shabbat and the eve of holidays, between 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on Shabbat and holidays, and for one hour and 45 minutes in the evening before the end of Shabbat or holiday. At other hours the street will be open to all traffic. Emergency vehicles will be allowed to pass through at all times.

MK Yossi Savid (Meretz) said the street's closing during certain hours is the same as closing it the whole of Shabbat.

Savid and MK Ophir Paz (Labor) said they plan to petition the High Court, because Levy's decision does not meet the needs of the area's secular residents.

Mordechai Plaut, English-language editor of the Israeli daily *Yated Ne'eman*, said he welcomes the decision. "We hope it will be a much needed step in reducing tension in the area," Plaut said. "We don't regard it as a matter of victory for one side or the other, but it's just a matter of simple justice and the residents being able to enjoy their own street on Shabbat."

Ornan Yekutieli (Meretz), a Jerusalem city councilman who for three years has led the movement to keep Bar-Ilan open, said that "since the High Court of Justice made a very clear conditioning of closing the street during prayer hours with having no violence at all, then I think that closing the street after a month of violence against policemen and against secular cars and drivers is in a way spitting in the face of the High Court of Justice."

Yekutieli, who himself was injured by a rock thrown at his head at a demonstration there this past Shabbat, said he, too, will petition the High Court first on the issue of violence and, second, over the court's ruling that a solution must be found for secular people.

Yekutieli said Levy's ruling only dealt with secular people who live directly around Bar-Ilan. The "thousands of people who live in Ramot Eshkol and French Hill are the ones who are being hurt by this decision," Yekutieli said, "and the minister didn't give them any solution at all."



Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy traces the route of Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan yesterday. (Brian Hender)

## Third in a series of five articles: A 'hozer betshuva' tells his story

By DAN IZENBERG

It was no easy matter to get an interview with a disgruntled teenager who had moved from the secular to the haredi world.

Herzl, the 15-year-old son of Rachel Fenso, refused to talk and would have required his rabbi's permission to do so even if he had been agreeable. The mother of Shmuel Aviv didn't want her son to be approached, adding that Shmuel's rabbi had refused to allow him to appear on a television program with her. Rabbi Michael Lasi, the head of an institute for the newly religious in Bat Yam, and the master of ceremonies at a four-evening "religious awakening marathon," to be discussed later in this series, was granted permission by his superiors to be interviewed. Two *hozim betshuva* who were proposed by institutions catering to these students turned out to be Ashkenazim from affluent backgrounds, one an ex-kibbutznik and the other an immigrant from Holland.

Finally, Arachim, one of the biggest *hazara betshuva* organizations in Israel, made available a 20-year-old yeshiva student who agreed to be interviewed on condition of anonymity.

From time to time, for example, after his bar mitzva, O.H. tried to observe Shabbat. But, he said, he lacked the "foundation" which would give meaning to what he was doing and enable him to persevere.

All in all, he continued, "I was a completely regular guy. I went to the beach on Saturdays and danced at discotheques."

Then, at 16, he went to Poland. "I returned with a lot of things to think about," he recalled. "Like, how did such a thing happen? What led up to it?"

"When you go there, you see many modern-looking people carrying Israeli flags. But in my mind, I pictured the old men with beards and the young boys with earlocks. So the question naturally arose—how are the two types connected? You come from a Zionist background, but you think of tradition and Torah. Those who ought to have organized that trip were the men with the beards, not those with the Israeli flag."

When O.H. returned from Auschwitz, he said he was preoccupied with "questions, doubts, and confusion. This is where the

internal struggle began. How do I get to the truth?"

But he hastened to add that there was nothing dramatic or painful about this period of questioning. "I behaved just as I had before," he said. "But after Poland, I lived with the question: How should I live, how should I conduct myself?"

During this period, an Arachim activist heard about his state of mind from a relative who already had become observant.

"[The activist] called me," continued O.H. "I was looking for someone to put my questions to. I grew to believe in him. You could see that here was a man who got to the heart of things. He didn't just come to sell you something and then disappear. You saw that he held on tight to the relationship. He stuck to it and that gave me confidence."

On the advice of his mentor, whom he describes today as "maybe even more than a close friend," O.H. went to an Arachim seminar, one of many the organization holds each year.

See TESHUVA, Page 9

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# Kinshasa cheers rebel victory

By DOUGLAS HAMILTON

KINSHASA (Reuters) — Laurent Kabila's rebel forces marched triumphantly through Zaire's capital Kinshasa yesterday, cheered by onlookers and urged by world powers to form a broad-based government as a bridge to elections.

Residents reported some resistance yesterday from at least one group of loyalist soldiers, while bodies of soldiers and civilians killed in an overnight shootout with rebels littered Kinshasa neighborhoods.

However, the United States, one of five Western nations with troops on standby in Congo to evacuate foreigners from Zaire, said it was scaling back its operation as peace returned to Kinshasa.

The fate and whereabouts of ousted president Mobutu Sese Seko, 66 and suffering from prostate cancer, remained uncertain.

A spokesman for the rebels vowed they would hunt him down "wherever he goes."

"With us, he will never be in a safe. Wherever he goes, we will find him," said Afri Kounyem, spokesman in France for the Rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (AFDL), said.

Rebel leader Laurent Kabila sent a delegation yesterday to Kinshasa from the southeastern city of Lubumbashi to reassure the people about security.

Asked whether they were going to contact the Kinshasa opposition leadership, the delegation's leader Deogratius Bugera, Secretary-General of the Alliance, said: "That is not what takes me there. I am going to contact all my compatriots without exception. There are parties, civil organizations, everyone."

Bugera would not say when Kabila would visit

Kinshasa: "He has major tasks here. He can come when he is finished." In Rabat, a security official said Mobutu and his family had arrived aboard three Gabonese planes, and were staying in the Moroccan capital.

In Paris, a family friend said he believed Mobutu was still in his home village of Gbadolite, to which he retired to "rest" after handing over power to his emergency rule government on Friday — the day before the rebels marched into Kinshasa, and Kabila proclaimed himself head of state.

Lichtenstein, responding to French news reports that Mobutu might travel there to wait out French elections before seeking exile in France, said yesterday he was not wanted.

Kabila's forces marched into the government and diplomatic quarters yesterday, after a night of sporadic shooting in areas not yet under their control.

In its first broadcast over national radio in Kinshasa, the rebels had ordered all government troops to report by yesterday morning and warned looters they would be severely punished.

One witness saw 40 bodies collected from different neighborhoods during one hour yesterday morning, most of them soldiers who went on a last-minute looting spree on Saturday night.

South African Deputy President Thabo Mbeki was scheduled yesterday to be the first foreign dignitary to meet Kabila, 56, since the rebels proclaimed victory. The African National Congress formally congratulated Kabila and his Alliance and said the absence of major bloodshed was a tribute to the mediation efforts of South African President Nelson Mandela.

The United States and former colonial power Belgium reacted to Kabila's victory by calling for a broad-based government and elections.



A man accused of being an officer with former president Mobutu Sese Seko's Presidential Guard is executed in a Kinshasa alley by a rebel soldier yesterday.

## Chirac China trip winds down

SHANGHAI — Concluding the first visit to China in 14 years by a French president, Jacques Chirac urged China and France yesterday to work in partnership on the "organization of tomorrow's world."

"Everything should be done so that no people, no nation, feel humiliated, frustrated, or the desire for revenge in the emergence of the new world order," said Chirac, whose four-day visit ended in the eastern city of Shanghai.

He said the world would be "multipolar" and warned of antagonism developing "if certain of today's leading actors try to contradict this evolution rather than organize."

As partners, France and China should concern themselves with "the organization of tomorrow's world," Chirac said.

Chirac was to stop briefly in

Moscow and meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin during his flight back to France yesterday, aides said.

French-backed Airbus Industrie won a \$1.5 billion order for 30 aircraft. Airbus, a European consortium in heated competition in China with Boeing Co. of the United States, also signed an agreement to build a 100-seat plane.

President Jiang Zemin and Chirac presided over the signing of 14 agreements, mostly accords to cooperate on environmental protection, nuclear energy, space and other issues.

In France, the conservatives clung to a slippery lead as polls fell silent yesterday, a week before National Assembly elections, and Socialist opposition leader Lionel Jospin said a left-wing upset was still possible.

## Death camp records trashed

PERPIGNAN, France (AP) — Documents on Jews deported to Nazi death camps were accidentally placed in a public garbage dump after a municipal building was cleared out for an art exhibition.

A police probe was launched a week ago when a newspaper revealed a garbage dump worker's discovery of folders containing the names and photos of more than 1,000 Jews rounded up near this Mediterranean city in 1942.

Jewish groups criticized the government. Some 75,000 Jews were deported from France to Nazi camps — only 2,500 survived.

Police said that at the beginning of 1996, City Hall workers moved "tons" of municipal documents from the former Perpignan prison to make way for an art exhibition.

The records of Jews who were held in the Rivesaltes camp near Perpignan and later deported to Auschwitz were dumped.

Jacques Chamoux, a city worker, found the files under trash last November and handed them to the local newspaper.

## Beaten British Conservatives leadership battle gets ugly

LONDON (Reuters) — Former interior minister Michael Howard staked out a hard-line position on Europe yesterday as he and rivals fought for the initiative to succeed John Major as head of Britain's defeated Conservative Party.

The contest to replace Major, who announced his departure hours after the Conservatives were routed by Tony Blair's Labor party in the May 1 election, has so far been as unifying as the internal squabbling that many blamed for their heavy defeat.

With the party that called itself the most successful election-winning machine in the world still in a state of shock, backbiting and blood-letting have overshadowed talk of the urgent need to modernize the Tories.

One of the main targets has been Howard, who has been accused by his former deputy, Anne Widdecombe, of being "dangerous" and unfit to lead the party.

Widdecombe, who described herself in *The Observer* as an ugly, overweight 49-year-old with crooked teeth, has grabbed the headlines in the past week for an extraordinary vendetta against Howard over his sacking of ex-prisons chief Derek Lewis in 1995.

The dispute is thought to have damaged Howard's leadership chances.

The front-runner is probably former Welsh Secretary William Hague — not so much because he offers a compelling political vision but because, aged just 36, he is of the Blair generation.

Whoever wins will have the arduous task of rebuilding the party from its roots along Labor's highly organized lines, and one Conservative MP, outspoken Euro-sceptic Teresa Gorman, thinks none of the candidates is up to the job.

Gorman, dismissing Hague as a "pre-pubescent marshmallow," wrote in the *Sunday*

*Express*: "All the candidates on offer carry too many scars and too much baggage."

Another challenger, former finance minister Kenneth Clarke, said the Conservatives could not hope to win back power if it remained obsessed with Europe.

"When we fight the next election, the theological disputes which the most obsessive Euro-sceptics want us to get engaged in now will seem completely out of date," he told BBC radio.

Opinion polls show Clarke to be the most popular candidate among voters, and a number of influential media commentators have also swung behind him.

But his pro-European views are likely to make him unpalatable to a majority of the 164 surviving Conservative members of parliament who will elect the leader. The first round of voting is expected on June 3.

## Iraqi Kurds battle Turkish Kurds

HABUR, Turkey (AP) — As Turkey vowed to keep troops in northern Iraq until wiping out Turkish Kurdish rebels there, an Iraqi Kurdish faction said yesterday it too was battling the rebels.

The Iraqi Kurdish group which controls areas south of the Turkish

border said it was battling the rebels of the Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, in the Iraqi Kurdish capital Irbil.

A spokesman for the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party, or KDP, said his group was trying to evict the Turkish Kurdish guerril-

las from Irbil.

He said the PKK threatened peace and security in the city and hampered relief work by the United Nations.

Turkey said yesterday its troops would not leave until the rebels were rendered inoperative. Turkish

officials said Saturday a total of 902 guerrillas have been killed.

While KDP fought a rival Iraqi Kurdish faction last fall, the PKK used the opportunity to increase its hold on the mountainous region which stretches 30 km below the Turkish border.

## Astronauts haul supplies to Mir

SPACE CENTER (AP) — Astronauts worked to move thousands of kilograms of supplies and equipment between Russia's orbiting Mir station and the docked space shuttle Atlantis yesterday.

With the help of Mir's two cosmonauts, shuttle crew members made the two most important swaps: they traded a new oxygen generator for a broken unit on Mir and exchanged NASA astronaut Michael Foale for Jerry Linenger,

who has lived on the station since January.

Foale will remain on board until Atlantis returns for him in September.

In all, the 10 astronauts and cosmonauts must carry 1,700 kg of supplies from Atlantis to Mir, including food, clothing, batteries, 11 45 kg bags of water and experiments for Foale to work on.

The crews also must haul 1,100 kg of equipment in the other direc-

tion before Atlantis leaves the station tomorrow night.

Among the things to be returned to Earth are the oxygen generator that broke in March and an oxygen-generating canister that burst into flames in February and almost caused an evacuation. They will be examined on the ground.

Shuttle commander Charles Precourt said Sunday morning that he's satisfied Mir will be a safe place for Foale for the next 4 1/2 months.

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| Sunday<br>June 1    | <b>A DAY LIKE NO OTHER</b><br>Israel is not associated with heavy industry, and yet... This tour will visit the Haifa Bay, including the Oil Refineries, the Kikil Aluminium Works, plus a boat tour of the bay when we'll view the shipyards, workshops and navy base. We bet you've never seen this part of Israel.<br>NIS 200 (including lunch)<br>Tour guide: Dr. Yoash Zohar  |
| Monday<br>June 9    | <b>ACRE - THE CRUSADER CITY</b><br>In July 1099, after they had captured Jerusalem, the Crusaders realized they needed a port with a major harbor. So they turned this small city into an important Crusader stronghold. The markets filled with goods, cloth, jewels and precious stones, for the troops to take home as souvenirs. We'll visit the Hospitallers Quarter and view the new discoveries, the Genoa Quarter - little Italy in the Holy Land - the Templars Quarter, the Turkish Baths and more.<br>NIS 185<br>Tour guide: Eran Sahar |
| Thursday<br>June 19 | <b>LAND OF MILK AND HONEY</b><br>Cheese, honey, olive oil and wine - we'll taste them all on our way. We'll start at the organic dairy of Kikil, and continue on to the olive oil press at Mrar village with their olive oil soap factory, then the prize-winning Dalton winery. We'll also visit the bee hives of Shadmot Dvora and its silk production unit. The Galilee is especially beautiful at this time of the year.<br>Join us!<br>NIS 225 (including lunch)<br>Tour guide: Israel Shalem   |
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**DERI**  
Continued from Page 1

There would also be "the stipulation that it carried no disgrace. Thus I would not be prevented from later entering the government myself."

Deri added that he "never heard any of this from Ben-Yair and that his only source was Avi-Yitzhak."

The whole deal, according to Deri, was foiled due to reports which were "accurate as it turned out, that Netanyahu's choice for justice minister was not Avi-Yitzhak but Ya'acov Ne'eman. As soon as that was made public, the prosecution told Avi-Yitzhak that the deal as it could not be accepted. I told him I didn't want to pursue the matter and start baggaling. If the original offer was no longer available, then I didn't want a deal at all."

Deri went on to deny that he had tried to exert pressure for Ne'eman's reappointment as justice minister. Deri claimed that he had spoken to Hanegbi on the phone Friday and told him that if he were in his place, he would "offer Ne'eman his portfolio back, by way of returning what had been placed in his trust. This is hardly pressure."

Hanegbi, according to Deri, would not bear of his "recommendation."

Deri also denounced the lead headline in yesterday's *Yediot Aharonot* about the pressure he is allegedly exerting on Ne'eman's behalf.

Deri hinted that the headline served the interests of Likud MK Silvan Shalom, whose wife, Judy, is a member of the Mozes family which owns *Yediot*. Shalom stands a good chance of getting the Science portfolio relinquished by Ze'ev Begio. But if Ne'eman returns to the cabinet, Shalom would be left out, since it cannot number more than 18 ministers.

Shalom and Hanegbi are to hold a joint support rally at Likud headquarters in Tel Aviv on Thursday.

Shalom yesterday explained that the idea is "not to add ministers from outside the political arena to the cabinet. The notion of professional ministers has not succeeded, and we must look out for the Likud's interests."

According to a source in the Prime Minister's Office, Ne'eman has informed Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu that he will not return to the government as

minister-without-portfolio, but only as justice minister. Ne'eman, meanwhile, is planning a vacation and will take the issue up again only when he returns.

**Batsheva Tsur adds:**  
Hanegbi yesterday denied that he had discussed the question of retaining his portfolio with Netanyahu. "There was no such discussion... Any quotes from the minister or so-called confidants are baseless," Hanegbi's spokesman said.

But Hanegbi was less forthcoming when it came to commenting on Deri's suggestion that he relinquish the post to Ne'eman. "The minister has no comment," his spokesman said.

Also tight-lipped were Ben-Yair and Avi-Yitzhak, neither of whom was prepared to comment on Deri's allegations.

Meanwhile, Yoav Yitzhak, the journalist whose allegations led to the indictment against Ne'eman, yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice to issue an interim injunction barring his reappointment as justice minister. Yitzhak argued that the court still has to rule on the Kochav Shomron case in which, he claimed, there is evidence that Ne'eman had committed a crime.

MOVIE REVIEW

# Murphy's law

By ADINA HOFFMAN

Eddie Murphy's swagger and smirk have fascinated cultural critics ever since he first jet-rocketed into the popular imagination in the early 80s with a string of outrageous and racially loaded appearances on the TV show *Saturday Night Live*. How, they asked, can a comic be so unflippably confident, even arrogant, as Murphy - then just aged 21?

METRO

Directed by Thomas Carter. Screenplay by Randy Feldman. Hebrew title: *Metro* 118 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance very strongly advised.

With Eddie Murphy, Michael Rapoport, Michael Wincott, Art Evans

Most comedians find humor in self-deprecation, or use their jokes as a kind of nervous defense. Murphy, meanwhile, comes at us shouting, cursing, with that crazed Buckwheat grin planted on his big black mouth, and practically orders us to take offense. And the laughter that invariably bursts forth during these routines is complicated: at once uneasy and relieved. His aggression, especially toward

whites and white society, is so profound, so undiluted, that one - if one is white - can't help but shift in one's seat. At the same time, laughing at his nastiness provides an enormous release. Of all the possible ways to respond when a nerve is exposed, laughter feels the most (for lack of a better word) constructive.

That was the young Eddie Murphy. The vitality and relevance of his humor have flickered on and off since those early days. Now, of course, he's an international box-office sensation, a star whose raw instincts have been packaged and peddled all over the world. His shtick sells; he is probably the most successful black actor in the history of film, in both financial and popular terms - a rather astonishing fact, when one stops to consider the barely masked racial rage that informs so much of his work.

On the other hand, Murphy himself is the savviest of self-promoters. He knows very well what the market will bear, and in several of his recent pictures, he has deliberately exchanged the persona of the angry black man for a less hostile, more satisfied sort of hero.

Last year's inspired *The Nutty Professor* showed how very funny Murphy can be in his new, non-confrontational capacity. Alas, this year's *Metro* doesn't even try to make us laugh. Thomas Carter's cruddy grab bag of an action-adventure/buddy movie/character study/romance restores Murphy to



Eddie Murphy (right) plays a hostage negotiator and Michael Rapoport his protegee in the strange-ly unfunny 'Metro.'

the role of agitated big mouth, a San Francisco Police Department hostage negotiator, but it confuses his usual weapon - his scalding sense of humor. The film seems designed to help Murphy break free from comedy into straighter macho material, a losing proposition if there ever was one. All that's left here of the actor's usual jive-talking wise guy demeanor is his hostility: he shouts and swears and carries on, to profoundly unpleasant effect.

chases from a dozen other films as it builds to the single creatively executed sequence in two hours - a prolonged violent struggle on a speeding cable car. Unfortunately, the film rambles on for another fifty minutes after this frenzied high point.

But why waste Eddie Murphy's talents on vehicular acrobatics of this generic sort? Any one of a dozen actors could pull off the physical feats that this role requires; presumably Murphy is on hand to bring life to the negotiations themselves, the scenes in which his character dons a bullet-proof vest, takes a deep breath and strides forth to face a hostage-taker head on, with nothing to help him

save the lives of the captives except his unflinching cool.

If *Metro* were a well-written comedy, Murphy might be able to play these bits as extended stand-up routines, the ultimate in improvisational dexterity. But Randy Feldman's script is lamest and most confused at exactly these crucial points, which waffle somewhere between comedy and drama and rely for their charge on crude, I'm-gonna-blow-your-brains-out theatrics. Sure, there's a certain tension that comes from watching a lunatic gunman taunt a shrieking damsel in distress, but Murphy's jokerster bearing only makes the threat seem cynical, funny as a hole in the head.

## An ideal performer

By HELEN KAYE

In the '50s, Richard Todd made female teenage hearts beat faster in movies like *The Dambusters*, *Robin Hood*, *The Hasty Heart* and *Chase a Crooked Shadow*. Now, a little older, a little more solid than he used to be, but still a charmer at 78, he plays old Lord Caversham in Peter Hall's long-running production of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*, coming to the Israel Festival on May 29.

This is Todd's first visit to Israel as an actor - when he came in the mid-'60s, he was a farmer. He'd met Yael Dayan when she was in England, he says from his London theater dressing room just before a matinee, "and she invited me to come to Israel. Her father [Moshe Dayan], who was minister of agriculture at the time, arranged it.

"I came for two weeks, went everywhere and saw everything. I had a morning with Ben Gurion too, in Tiberias. He was very energetic. We went for a walk and I had a job keeping up."

This is Todd's second encounter with *An Ideal Husband* too. Thirty years ago, he played Caversham's son, Lord Goring, at the Strand in the 1965/66 season, "and I was pretty bad at the beginning, after 17 years in film. I had to work at it."

Goring (Simon Ward in this production) is the hero of the play which is a story of political scandal, theft, and blackmail. Beneath that is the terrible price paid for blind admiration and misdirected secrecy, and the whole is irradiated with Wilde's pinpoint wit.

"I enjoy playing Caversham," says Todd. "He's a very typical man of his period and position, a crusty old boy with a sense of humor. He loves his son but is irritated to death by him and doesn't understand him. Goring loves his father but he understands him too, and that's how I played him."

It's said Wilde wrote himself when he wrote Goring, and the more than sad irony is that *An Ideal Husband* ends happily whereas Wilde's life did not. The play, and Wilde's other great comedy, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, premiered in 1895. Both were an immediate and huge success but were withdrawn from the stage after Wilde was convicted of homosexuality that same year and sentenced to two years of hard labor. Following his release, he exiled himself to Paris where he died in 1900.

In an article which director Peter Hall wrote when his production premiered in 1993, he said that *An Ideal Husband* is "a completely original farce. There is no play in English before nor, thanks to our treatment of the author, is there any like it after. It is a play about politics and power and the yawning gap that can open up between private and public morality."



Richard Todd had early ideas of becoming a playwright, but drama school made an actor out of him.

Political sleaze is alive and well just as much today as 102 years ago, here, just as much as in contemporary London. But Wilde's brief was not to condemn but to forgive, and "his philosophy was to be kind to people, do not condemn too easily," Todd observes. Basically, "the focus of the play is about right and wrong, and that hasn't changed. Attitudes have. Today nobody gives a damn."

Like Wilde, Todd is an Irishman, an Anglicized Irishman is how he puts it. His father was an Army doctor who later became a surgeon in civilian life.

Young Todd was sent away to boarding school in England at the age of six, but summer holidays were often spent "with my grandparents who lived in a wild area of Northern Ireland on the edge of a lake."

"It was a wonderful life. When I was 13 I got rheumatic fever with complications, but I went on [running about] anyway. I cured myself."

He had early ideas of becoming a playwright, but going to drama school made an actor of him and "I learned my craft in repertory theater. They don't exist anymore, unfortunately." That was in 1937.

Two years later, the war broke out and Todd enlisted in a parachute regiment and ended the war as a staff officer with the Sixth Airborne Division. (One of his best films was *The Dambusters* in 1954, the story of an RAF squadron which took on the mission of destroying the dams that provided power to the Ruhr, "and they changed nothing. It was very factual, almost like a documentary, no love interest.")

There have been films, stage, and of course TV in his 60 year career. He's had his own theater company, Triumph Productions, and has written two well received volumes of his autobiography. Even quadruple bypass surgery last year has only slowed him down a bit.

"They had to take away my breastbone," he quips, "so doo' poke me in the chest."

## On top of the opera world

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

At 62-years-old, Ioan Holender has definitely reached the peak of the opera world. And last week, Holender, general director of the Vienna Staatsoper, came here with the Staatsoper's ballet company to present a series of performances at the Tel Aviv Arts Center. Holender left after the opening night, but before that he talked about his life at the helm of one of the leading opera houses in the world, a house performing seven days a week over a 10-month season.

Holender is not a performing musician or a creative artist by profession. Before joining the Vienna Staatsoper he had been an agent for opera singers for over 25 years. "Then they approached me and asked me to move to the other side of the table," says the elegant and cheerful Holender. His initial nine-year contract in Vienna has just been extended for five more years, until 2002, quite a record for an organization to which music directors used to change regularly.

The Vienna Staatsoper has had at its helm such renowned musicians as Gustav Mahler, Lorin Maazel and Claudio Abbado, to name just a few, but the city was far from kind to them and none of them stayed in the job for very long. But the Romanian-born Jew who has lived in Vienna for many years is accepted by almost everyone, perhaps because he is not a conductor or a director. "Opera

houses should not be run by artists," Holender argues emphatically. "Artists think first and foremost about their art and not about the organization."

"Look, when Abbado was here it was wonderful, but the other great conductors did not come because he was keeping the best repertoire for himself. Now we have all the great conductors, Abbado, Muti, Mehta, Maazel is coming back, everybody," Israeli conductors too, "there is Asher Fisch, who is the music director of the Volksoper, Vienna's second opera house, who does a lot of work with us and Daniel Barenboim too." What about Daniel Oren? "He conducted here a few times but we have no contact any more whatsoever with him," Holender says without wishing to elaborate.

And as for Israeli singers, there is Anat Efrat, "a wonderful young soprano. She had many small parts this season and will play Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier* at Anchen in *Der Feischutz* next season. We are very happy that she sings with us and I think she has a great international career ahead of her. I know she will be wonderful singing all the high lyric soprano roles in the repertoire."

The Vienna Staatsoper presents opera night after night, in rotation, many productions being presented with very little orchestral rehearsal

time, which apparently is very expensive in Vienna. "We have the best opera orchestra in the world [The Vienna Philharmonic] and they can play Wagner one night and Rossini the next without any problem."

Holender argues that opera is first and foremost a singers' world and he is more than happy with his ensemble of singers. He implies that every opera house in the world should have such an ensemble, "Singers," he says, "must have a home, and an opera house without its ensemble has no identity."

Will Holender also bring his opera company to Israel? "Opera is very expensive and touring opera is even more so. I don't see this happening," he says, despite his love for Israel and his desire to do all he can to help local musicians and opera singers.



Ioan Holender



Moshe Becker

## NEWS of the muse

### Animation magic

Animation and the animated is the name of the game at the third annual Creative Filmmaking 1997 to be held at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque from May 21-24. One of the highlights will be a screening of that Beatles classic *The Yellow Submarine*. There'll be tributes to those earlier special effects men in movies like *King Kong* (1933), with guests of honor John Coates and Norman Kauffman of TVC studios (they did the animation for *Yellow Submarine*) and numerous other movies. Most of the festival is in English. *Helen Kaye*

### Berlin Opera's Israel debut

The NIO is hosting the Berlin Opera, making its debut visit with six performances of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* from May 24-June 6 and four of Verdi's *A Masked Ball* from May 29-June 7. The company is coming with the orchestra and the choir. Lawrence Foster conducts the Mozart and Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos the Verdi, which also features soprano Michele Crider (*Il Trovatore* with the IPO), mezzo Larissa Diadkova (*Kovanschina* with the Kirovi), and top baritone Roberto Servile. The director is Berlin Opera general director Götz Friedrich who will be directing *Sansone e Delilah* for the NIO next season. *Helen Kaye*

### Shakespeare ... sort of

37 plays of Shakespeare are marvelously mangled by that inspired trio of sublime idiots otherwise known as the RSC. Goichal That's the Reduced Shakespeare Company comprising Chris Mellon, Matthew Rippy and Ross MacKenzie of the UK touring company. At the 1993 Israel Festival audiences fell off their seats laughing at *The Complete Works of Shakespeare - Abridged*. They came back again in '95 with *The Bible - Abridged* (not quite as funny), and now they'll be back with Shakespeare for four shows at the Cameri Theater in Tel Aviv, and one each in Kfar Saba, Haifa and Jerusalem starting from June 24. How do they do it? Well how about *The Comedy of Two Well Measured Gentlemen Locked In the Merry Wives of Windsor* or *A Midsummer's Twelfth Night in Winter?* Hamlet's in the second half. *Helen Kaye*

### Actors in opera

Actor Moshe Becker, who currently plays in the Haifa Theater production of *Angels in America*, will narrate two operatic productions next week: the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's abridged version of Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* (May 29 in Tel Aviv) and Mozart's rarely performed *Zaide* presented, sans dialogue, by the Warsaw Chamber Opera and the Israel Chamber Orchestra (May 28, 29 in Tel Aviv and May 31 in Haifa). Shalom Shmelov will narrate in Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra IBA presentation opening the Israel Festival (May 29, Jerusalem). *Michael Ajzenstadt*

### Menuhin Piano Chair inaugurated

The Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance announced the inauguration of the Hepzibah Menuhin Piano Chair established through the generosity of Mr. Paul Morawitz. The purpose of the chair is "to foster young piano studies towards excellence and professionalism." The artistic director of the Chair is Professor Alexander Tamir and it is open to all young Israeli pianists. The Chair will be officially inaugurated with a special concert at the Jerusalem Theater on May 26 featuring 26 local pianists performing on five pianos. *Michael Ajzenstadt*

### Competition Winners

The overall winner of the Paul Ben-Haim Competition was 17-year-old violinist Gai Figar. Other winners were 17-year-old trumpet player Tamir Edut (brass youth), 21-year-old trumpet player Gregory Rivkin (brass adults) and 17-year-old cellist Ira Givoli (strings). Five other musicians received certificates of merit. *Michael Ajzenstadt*

## Oscar Wilde & Peter Hall at the Israel Festival, Jerusalem

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## Peaceful budget-cutting

In a triumphant speech to the United States Congress last July, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu let loose with a commitment sure to warm the cockles of the every congressional budget-cutter's heart: "We are going to achieve economic independence... In the next four years, we will begin the long-term process of gradually reducing the level of your generous economic assistance to Israel." Now that the US is seeking to cash in on that promise, Israel should say yes.

It was the first time in history that a country actually volunteered to cut financial assistance flowing from the US. For over a decade, the \$3 billion military and economic assistance package to Israel has remained constant, while the overall US foreign assistance pie has shrunk.

Today, two countries—Israel and Egypt—receive about 40 percent of the US foreign aid budget. The US has recently proposed to skim \$50 million each from assistance to Israel and Egypt, and transfer about \$90m. of these funds to Jordan and \$10m. to the Palestinian Authority. The US would then attempt to convince Europe, Japan, and the Arab states to contribute another \$150m. per year over the next five years to the new "Fund for Peace and Stability in the Middle East."

Behind the scenes, Israel has been encouraging the US to provide assorted benefits to Jordan since signing the peace treaty with Israel. The recent spat with Jordan over the treaty provisions concerning water served to highlight the economic pressures on the Hashemite kingdom, which is still recovering from the damage to its economy following its pro-Iraqi stance during the Gulf War.

It was appropriate, therefore, that Netanyahu reportedly expressed his support in principle for the US request in his recent secret meeting with King Hussein. What is inappropriate is that, almost a year after his pledge to Congress, there is still not the beginning of a plan for the gradual reduction of US economic assistance to Israel.

For some time now, the \$1.2b. level of US aid has been an anachronism. Although the amount in real terms has been shrunk substantially by inflation over the years, Israel's GNP has grown substantially, too. Israel now has a per capita income higher than Portugal and approaching that of Great Britain. And Israel has the highest number of high-tech startups in the world per capita—and almost as many as the United States

in absolute numbers. Israel's economy is now larger than that of all her Arab neighbors combined, though Egypt alone has over 10 times Israel's population. Netanyahu's pledge, as dramatic as it was, was overdue.

There is no doubt that Israel can afford a cut in assistance, and arguably would even benefit from it in the long run. The question has been how to do it most sensibly, without sending the political signal for reduced US support for Israel.

Any US proposal to cut aid, especially in the context of the current rocky stage of the peace process, carries with it the risk of being perceived as political punishment. The fact that the US proposal combines cuts for Israel and Egypt, and that most of the money has a clear purpose—for Jordan—lessens the risk of sending unwanted political signals.

From Israel's perspective, there remains a need to ensure that the context of the cut is Israel's own desire for economic independence and to help Jordan, out an expression of weakened support for Israel by the United States. It is for this reason that Netanyahu's original initiative was so important and timely, and why it needs to be implemented. The government must come up with a plan to gradually reduce its assistance from the US and start implementation as soon as possible. The more such a plan is delayed, the greater the risk that Congress will, understandably, become impatient and either impose a plan or force Israel to come up with one.

It would be much better if the voluntary thrust of Netanyahu's proposal were preserved, and Israel maintained the initiative with Congress and the US administration. Some of the funds freed by this cut could be used to bolster, on a one-time basis, the most successful of the joint research and development funds which help produce exports for both countries.

The model of joint funds that increase the ties between nations should also be employed with the new funds for Jordan. There is no shortage of excellent proposals for joint projects between Israel and Jordan, of benefit to both countries and the peace between them, which could be jump-started through the new fund. If the purpose of the fund is really to demonstrate the fruits of peace, then it should be devoted to projects that showcase the possibilities for real cooperation between Israel and its neighbors.

## Correcting an error

We all make mistakes, but it is very rare to find a politician not only admitting to having made one, but also acting quickly to rectify it. Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, while not deserving to be carried around on the shoulders of cheering 12th-graders as was former minister Amnon Rubinstein when the matriculation lottery was first introduced, is therefore worthy of praise.

Hammer announced last Thursday he had canceled plans for the annual matriculation lottery and had handed the decision as to which three of the seven required matriculation subjects—Bible, history, English, math, literature, Hebrew, and civics—would be left off this year's matriculation exams to a special panel of experts. This decision, and perhaps more importantly, the manner in which it was executed—an hour before the lottery was to take place—was a poor one.

Even though switching from a lottery format to a panel did not add or subtract from the topics to be examined, changing the rules of the game just before the final whistle, as far as the high school seniors were concerned, was a breach of trust. Given the already tense state of

nerves among anxious 12th-graders overloaded with last-minute studying, the loud and strident protest which followed Hammer's decision was inevitable.

And so, in what the students would be right to see as a victory in civics—which ironically was one of the topics the computerized lottery eventually dropped as a required exam—Hammer decided to backtrack on his decision, while stating that next year, he intends to abolish the lottery in favor of a panel of experts.

But here, too, the education minister would do well to reconsider. Hammer's stated opposition to the lottery is that it cheapens the educational system's image. This should not necessarily be so, provided the lottery is conducted in a dignified manner, without attendant 12th-graders ready and waiting to boost the minister on their shoulders. A lottery also ensures fairness and prevents any suggestion of undue influence in the choice of topics chosen. There is even one reason to exclude the Bible from the topics drawn by lottery, as Hammer wishes. If the casting of lots was good enough for Joshua to decide how to apportion the Land of Israel (Joshua 18:6), then it can also serve the educational system.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### LAND SALES

Sir.—The following headlines in your issue of May 6 highlight the double standard Israel is applying against itself. The main headline is "Israel to offer gestures to PA," such as consultations with the Americans and large-scale construction for Palestinians including Jerusalem and the PA airport in Dahaniya.

On the next page is the headline "PA introduces death penalty for selling land to Israelis." The PA justice minister is quoted as saying, "Private land in Jaffa, Ramle and Lod... belongs to refugees and must not be sold because refugees are to be discussed in final-status talks... we are not ready to accept Israelis buying land in the Negev either."

Since this is obviously the Arab idea of peace, and the Americans do not appear to object to it, I suggest that Israel should legislate a law making the sale of land by Jews to Arabs punishable by death.

YOHANAN RAMATI

Jerusalem.

### GRATUITOUS ADVICE

Sir.—From the safety of his home in sunny New South Wales, Clive Kessler (Letters, May 4) gives us some gratuitous advice.

The professor suggests that Israel should not be tough with the Palestinians. Fair enough, if Palestinians want to live with us. But he may not be aware that Arafat continually exhorts his Palestinians to make Jews' lives in Israel untenable. How do we "share lovingly" with an organizer of terror, a Jew murderer, a dictator to his own people? On the same day, you report how a Palestinian lawyer, working for the Palestinian Authority, wrote an article for the Gaza Bar Association in which he praised the Israeli judicial system. The article had not yet been published, but its author, poor old Jamil Salameh, was already incarcerated in a Gaza Central Prison.

Maybe the professor is also not aware that Singapore, Luxembourg and Japan do not have 160 million belligerent Arabs crowding their doorsteps.

KEN SYMONDS

Jerusalem (Sydney).

### COMPARISONS

Sir.—The many comparisons between the Bar-On Affair and the Nixon Watergate case fail mainly because in the US there is a tradition that no one is above the law. The president, the common man and the common criminal (at least in theory) have the same rights and obligations to constitutional protection. While Nixon was undone by his arrogance, Netanyahu continues to laugh in the faces of his constituency.

To be fair, the US system, like ours, has its own built-in safeguards, which, sometimes, unfortunately cause a seeming miscarriage of justice. A more apt comparison in recent US judicial history to the Bar-On Affair should be the Simpson trial.

Like Simpson, we all know Netanyahu and Co. are guilty; there just isn't enough good evidence to prove it.

DAVID GURTNER

Jerusalem.

## The decent thing

DAVID FORMAN

Having grown up in the Sixties in the US, I participated in one demonstration after another calling for America's unilateral withdrawal from Vietnam.

Those of us who took to the streets to force America's military-industrial complex to end its "rape of Vietnam" were so stirred by the passion of our cause that we forgot our moral obligation to the people of South Vietnam.

I do not refer here to the waging of a brutal war to prop up a cor-

ruption of the fate of the Christians in southern Lebanon.

It was always a myth that we could expect the South Lebanese Army to defend us. It is our boys who are being killed, not only defending the north of Israel, but also protecting the south Lebanese. (Such was the case with the US army and the South Vietnamese regulars. They simply could not do the work for the Americans.)

The very fact that the Christians in south Lebanon have cast their lot with Israel makes them subject to unthinkable retaliation by all Lebanese factions should the IDF pull out.

The Americans abandoned any sense of moral propriety when they summarily left Vietnam. They left images of South Vietnamese clinging to US helicopters as they took off from the American Embassy compound in Saigon.

We must not do the same.

AT ITS best, morality is an expression of political policy. The inverse is also true. The absence of moral consideration is the worst manifestation of governmental behavior.

As one who fought in the Lebanon war, I felt that our blurred mission there deprived the adventure of any moral grounding. The massacre at Sabra and Shatila was a direct outgrowth of this moral lapse.

Yet this moral vacuum need not be filled by another moral aberration.

As an old-time anti-Vietnam war activist, I admit the mistake of my enthusiasm for demanding unilateral withdrawal from Vietnam that did not take into consideration some sort of arrangement that would protect the South Vietnamese.

## Israel should withdraw from Lebanon, but not as the Americans left Vietnam

rupt South Vietnamese government in the name of defending democracy against the encroachment of communism, but rather to the US's commitment to the South Vietnamese, whom it had promised to protect. Unilateral withdrawal left these people defenseless, subject to a ruthless regime in the North that eventually took over the entire country.

Only the most glib analyst would make a wholesale comparison between the US's involvement in Vietnam and Israel's involvement in Lebanon. Yet there is one similarity it is essential to explore.

What is our moral obligation to the Christians in south Lebanon who have helped to defend our northern towns and villages?

In the debate over a unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon, which has come to the fore again following the weekend's fatal clashes there, somewhere is there any mea-

## Dry Bones



Similarly, because I was in Lebanon, I recognize the havoc that we helped to create—above and beyond the extreme chaos that the Lebanese, Palestinians, and Syrians introduced themselves.

I am for withdrawal from Lebanon for many reasons, the most significant one being that the price we are paying is not worth our remaining there.

The risk—that all the Hizbullah and Lebanese really want is for us to leave, and nothing more—is worth taking if it means saving one Israeli soldier's life.

But we must offer the Christians in south Lebanon a safe haven—in Israel. We should carve out some settlements for them in Galilee.

The Americans let some Vietnamese boat people onto their shores, but usually only those who had money or political connections.

We must take a universal approach, offering sanctuary to all those with whom we have entrusted the responsibility of helping us defend ourselves.

If we do not do this, history will compare our Lebanese albatross to the US-Vietnam quagmire.

We will be judged like the Americans: immoral in starting a war, and immoral in way we ended it.

The writer is spokesperson for Rabbis for Human Rights

## Emerging from adolescence?

THOMAS A. ROSE and PETER J. PITTS

Last year's surprise election of Binyamin Netanyahu as Israel's prime minister led many Americans to conclude that the Jewish state had elected its own version of Newt Gingrich.

In fact, the high-water mark of Netanyahu's first year in office came when the telegenic young premier inspired a Joint Session of Congress with his passionate appeal for free markets, traditional values, and an end to Israeli big government.

It is that combination of charisma and conservatism that has helped him emerge as a highly-regarded statesman in the eyes of most American Jews, despite his seemingly never-ending stream of problems.

Yet ironically, that which makes Netanyahu popular with mainstream American Jews is precisely what organized American Jewish leadership has long opposed, namely, conservative values and those who espouse them—Newt Gingrich being the archetypal golem.

All of which raises a revised version of the classic American Jewish question: Conservatism—if it's good for Israeli Jews, why isn't it good for us? While the largely self-appointed American Jewish leadership still abides by its traditional affinity for ideas and leaders of the left, a dramatic shift in the political inclinations of rank-and-file American Jews is now undeniable.

The vast majority of American Jews live in traditional democratic strongholds like New York, Chicago and Los Angeles; yet two of those cities now have Republican mayors, both of whom owe their jobs to the majority of Jewish voters who support them.

Not only is this not an aberration, it's a trend, and it's intensifying.

Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan easily won an overwhelming percentage of Jewish voters in last month's election. In New York, more than 80 percent of that city's Jews plan to vote for Republican Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

Even in Manhattan, home to America's single most liberal Jewish community, Giuliani leads his likely Democratic opponent, Ruth Messinger, herself an old-style ultra-liberal Manhattan Jew,

by almost two-to-one.

To use a bit of talmudic reasoning, if the bastions of Jewish liberalism in New York and Los Angeles are moving to the right, all the more dramatic must that movement be in other, less traditionally liberal domains.

A recent survey conducted by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Indianapolis (the public affairs arm of the local-organized Jewish community) provides strong evidence that one of the last remaining demographic strongholds of liberalism may

hall.

One third of respondents supported "moment of silence" legislation and private school vouchers (abortion was about the only issue that found Indianapolis Jews in line with current liberal dogma—90 percent favor universal access).

Organized Jewry's historical support for increased social spending and opposition to welfare reform notwithstanding, Indianapolis Jews support shrinking the welfare state, not expanding it. Seventy-three percent of respondents said they opposed

an end.

On the national level, it appears that leaders of some of the most liberal Jewish organizations are actually paying attention to their own polling. In a move that would have been unthinkable as recently as a year ago, the American Jewish Coogress, a long-time opponent of educational choice and public religious expression, recently filed a legal brief acknowledging that public school teachers can provide remedial education in private schools.

The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, the most liberal of the mainstream US Jewish organizations, has indicated it might be time to rethink its opposition to educational choice by encouraging its national affiliates to debate private school vouchers.

Many erstwhile liberal Jews have finally realized that their successful campaign to secularize American life by banning as much public religious expression as possible hurt no one more than American Jews—now the US's fastest-shrinking ethnic minority.

This debate is not just academic. It presents Republicans with an unprecedented opportunity to make serious institutional inroads into a constituency it has long neglected.

Actively courting the support of American Jews could be the linchpin to opening the ethnic floodgates of the long-predicted but never-materialized political realignment needed to cement America's vast conservative majority.

In charity, American Jews deserve the grace implied in the famous maxim that liberalism is both allowed and expected until one turns 30. At last, nearly 70 years after Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, when sympathy for the murdered prime minister's policies may finally be emerging from its arrested state of adolescence.

With any luck, the old saw about Jews living like Episcopalians and voting like Puerto Ricans may finally give way to an American Jewish community that both lives and votes like Jews.

For both Jews and Americans, that is good news.

The writers are members of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Indianapolis.

## US Jews may be far more conservative than the liberals who speak for them

finally be waking up.

The result of this poll confirms what many Jewish Hoosiers have long suspected—that the Chosen People are far more conservative than people think; and certainly more conservative than the liberals who speak for us.

The most powerful demonstration of this fact is that only 29 percent of respondents in Indianapolis described themselves as "liberal." Less than half (42 percent) called themselves Democrats.

That more than two-thirds of the Jews in America's 12th largest city no longer feel comfortable identifying themselves with the political tradition that has defined national Jewish life since the New Deal can be called nothing if not dramatic.

ALTHOUGH the wordings of the questions often belied the left-wing bias of the JCRC's staff, respondents time and again spoke in such a conservative voice that the survey's sponsors have had a hard time explaining away the results.

In one of the survey's most revealing findings, more than half of respondents said they do not object to public religious displays. This finding comes despite the Indianapolis JCRC's well-publicized campaign to prevent a local Jewish organization from displaying its Hanukkah menorah in city

increases in welfare payments, and half supported outright cuts.

Even though Indianapolis Jews are represented by a JCRC that refuses to support the death penalty, 80 percent of the people it claims to represent do.

Conservatives will undoubtedly interpret the fact that more than two-thirds of Jews in Indianapolis feel threatened by increasing lawlessness as an indictment of lenient criminal justice policies long advocated by liberal Jewish organizations.

The Indianapolis survey also contradicted years of conventional wisdom that American Jews are more closely aligned with the policies of the left-wing Labor party in Israel than with the conservative Likud.

Even though the Indianapolis survey was taken immediately after Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, when sympathy for the murdered prime minister's policies was at an all-time high, only 60 percent said they supported the "peace process," far less than the percentage of Israelis polled at the same time.

So much for establishing an Indianapolis chapter of the American Friends of Peace Now!

THE good news for conservatives is that the days of uncontested liberal hegemony over Jewish communal affairs is finally coming to

## POSTSCRIPTS

MARK SAFFER of Ra'anana reports that an acquaintance went to a Herzliya Pituah restaurant during Pessah and ordered, as is his wont, a bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich on a roll.

His order affronted the waiter. "Don't you know it's Pessah, sir? We don't serve rolls!"

A POLICEMAN in Nutley, New Jersey, set a new standard for good citizenship—he wrote himself a parking ticket.

Sgt. Steven Rogers said he realized he parked too close to a sweet corner and issued himself a \$17 ticket. "Police have to set an example," he said.

ODD LANGUAGE, this English of ours.

There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetheads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

Quicksand works slowly, boxing rings are square and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig. And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and bammers don't ham?

You can make amends but not one amend, you comb through

who was combobulated, grunted, ruly or peccable? And where are all those people who are spring chickens or who would actually hurt a fly?

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which an alarm clock goes off by going on. When the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

And when you wind up a watch, you start it, but when you wind up a story, you end it.

(Esther Hecht)

Bones

Hat Trick

Europe's New Order: Making a Club, Not War

By R. W. APPLE Jr.

WASHINGTON  
WITH Germany mobilizing for war in September 1938, the British Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain, told his nation in a fateful radio broadcast that as "a man of peace" he had no stomach for war in Czechoslovakia — "in a faraway country," as he put it, "between people of whom we know nothing."  
Ever since, his words have stood as a synonym for spinelessness.  
They were much quoted during the agonizing debate in Western Europe and the United States about the

recent war in Bosnia. With the cold war a fading memory, the European allies were reluctant, and the United States until very late in the day was unwilling, to commit troops to stabilize another dangerous situation in an equally remote place. Where, people asked, does the national interest lie?

The Clinton Administration, with its 15 partners in NATO, appears ready now to give an answer to the question as they expand its membership and transform the organization in the process. The national interest lies in strengthening democracy in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, for starters, and probably in Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia before too long.

The price is not insignificant: committing the United States not only to defend Prague from attack by a newly expansionist Russia, or Poland from assault by

Ukraine, but one day, perhaps, a sliver of Hungary that might be contested by Romania, in a Yugoslav-style ethnic conflict.

After seeing how reluctant George Bush and Bill Clinton were to send American troops to Bosnia, and how quick Mr. Clinton was to pull back from Somalia and Haiti when the going got nasty, it is not easy to visualize a future American President sending American soldiers to central Europe to sort things out there. Would not the ghost of Neville Chamberlain and Munich loom again over the West?

Absolutely not, a senior American policy maker said late last week. "We take this every bit as seriously as we took our commitment to Berlin," he said.

But wait, say he and other advocates of the expansion, which was announced last week and is to be

approved, with the grudging acquiescence of the Russians, at a summit conference in Madrid in July. The change in NATO is more subtle than that. This is not really about Russia any more. It is about reassuring the new democracies that they are now considered chubbable, encouraging them to continue free-market reforms and persuading them to put aside old territorial squabbles, as France and Germany did.

NATO, Political Alliance

Indeed, they argue, the mere prospect of membership has prompted Slovenia to accelerate its reform program and Hungary and Romania to talk civilly to one another, at least for the moment.

So is the new North Atlantic Treaty Organization to be more a political organization than a defensive military one? Just so, if you listen to Strobe Talbott, the Deputy Secretary of State, who argued recently that NATO has had political functions from its earliest days — consolidating civilian democracy in its earliest days — helping keep the peace between Greece and Turkey — and now, "while retaining its military capacity and core identity as a

Continued on Page 3

cence!



Caps piled outside a NATO military conference in France in the 1960's.

Fitting In

Another Kind of Middle-Class Squeeze

By SAM ROBERTS

KARL MARX preached it. Last week, Gov. George E. Pataki of New York proclaimed it: Society's have-nots have finally converged with most of the haves into a single class.

Addressing a paramount concern of many New York City apartment dwellers, the Governor declared, "My plan to save rent control will insure that every middle-class tenant has the right to remain in their apartment for the rest of their lives if they choose."

And how did the Governor define middle-class tenants? As any household making up to \$175,000 a year. That places a mere 1 percent of tenants at the mercy of the marketplace, protecting the other 99 percent as solid members of the middle class.

If this sounds more like Groucho than Karl, it's because in America the class struggle has meant trying to fit everyone into the middle. The designation itself seems more an abstract state of mind than a measure of hard currency. What Jefferson viewed as a stabilizing buffer and Tocqueville described as "eager and apprehensive men of small property" has evolved into a mythology of classlessness. "That which in England we call the middle class is in America virtually the nation," Matthew Arnold wrote a century ago.

Members Only

The middle class is the club that everyone wants to join, despite the downsizing, dependence on more than one wage earner and record amount of consumer debt that make membership so tenuous.

"I never define it by money," says the social historian Paul Fussell, whose book, "Class" (Summit, 1983), skewered all but the abject poor. "The middle class is distinguishable more by its earnestness and psychic insecurity than by its middle income."

Robert Reich, the former Labor Secretary, roughly defines middle-class income as between \$20,000 and \$60,000. The average American household income is about \$34,000.

For the first time since the early 1980's recession, more people are identifying themselves as working class than middle class. But when people are asked to choose among lower, middle and upper in most polls — including surveys taken during the Depression — more than 8 in 10 Americans describe themselves as middle class. That includes 2 in 10 of the people who make less than \$15,000 (that's below the poverty line for a family of four) and

more than 9 in 10 of those who make over \$75,000. "I'm not a wealthy man," said House Speaker Newt Gingrich last month, explaining why, despite his \$171,500 salary, he needed a loan from former Senator Bob Dole to pay an Ethics Committee fine. "I'm a middle-class guy." His former congressional colleague, Fred Heineman,

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Over There  
A world of politics  
American-style.

By Roger Cohen

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Economics, Russian-Style  
Eating more bread,  
while buying less.

By Michael R. Gordon

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A legal guide to  
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Livermore, Calif., 1970: Savoring life in the middle class, when it was easier to define.

## The World

# U.S. Boom Plays Big In Politics Abroad

By ROGER COHEN

PARIS  
**T**ONY and Cherie Blair abandoned their official car for a "Westminster walk-about" on their way to the Opening of Parliament last week, and The London Times approvingly oiled the American inspiration of such politics, especially the way Mrs. Blair's scarf fell, like Hillary Clinton's, "with a length hanging down from the left shoulder."

Not to be outdone by the new British Prime Minister, President Jacques Chirac last week took a leaf from the Clinton political manual by departing for China with 55 leading French industrialists on a self-France mission that has danced lightly over human-rights issues. With a parliamentary election just a week away, Mr. Chirac was betting that the president-as-global-salesman (as opposed to exalted statesman) is now a winning image even in France.

Whether it is sartorial style or commercial substance, the impact of America's sustained economic vibrancy, and the "whatever works" President identified with it, is now widely felt. From Canada through Europe to Japan, big government is out of fashion. The political left is lurching toward the center. And growth has assumed the status of a fully fledged political ideology, the foundation of electoral success.

The first thing Mr. Blair did was to grant control of monetary policy to the independent Bank of England, an extraordinary step for the leader of the British left, and one of the first things he made clear was that "high and stable levels of economic growth" would be a priority. The moves echoed Mr. Clinton's message on taking office in 1993 that he would not interfere with the Federal Reserve or be a big spender.

### Global Shift

A huge political shift is under way. It may be radical, as in Britain, faltering, as in France and Germany, or tinged, as in Canada, with dread of American economic Darwinism. But the sheer durability and extent of America's economic expansion — a soaring Wall Street, inflation at 3 percent, joblessness under 5 percent, and only a brief blip in upward growth since 1982 — has imparted what seems to be the single strongest political message of the post-cold war decade.

That message is: the areas where the state does things better than the market are extremely limited; fiscal discipline can be combined with strong growth and high employment if the right conditions for entrepreneurship are created, and successful politics in the absence of ideological enemies or pressing security threats amounts to the pragmatism of learning these lessons combined with sharp marketing — exemplified by the Blairs' stroll and that billowing scarf.

Dissension remains. The best balance between state and market is still widely discussed, a debate that reflects the differing cultural traditions in America, Europe and Japan. American domination naturally meets resentment. Mr. Chirac, in China, pointedly embraces a "multi-polar" world, code for one not dominated by the United States. The Chinese applaud him.

But in a post-ideological and Webbed world, the insistent fact that America works seems, for now, hard to resist.

"I am struck when I travel by the way that Bill Gates of Microsoft and Andy Grove of Intel have become international heroes," said Robert Hormats, the vice chairman of Goldman Sachs International. "They are seen as representing an entrepreneurial renaissance that has, at the same time, placed Clinton's America in the vanguard of international technology and created millions of jobs."

The age of Gates-Grove is reinforced by the fact that their medium is their message: the technology that is linking and changing the world carries its own political and economic impact, reducing politicians' room for maneuver.

In Japan, once a bastion of regulation, it is now almost universally accepted that government interference in the economy is unhelpful. Parlia-



American prosperity is changing politics abroad. In Britain, Tony Blair has bucked tradition ...

mentary campaigning last fall was dominated by candidates calling for a freer economy, for in Japan the perception is strong that America leads in new technologies because of its flexible capital markets and Clintonian pragmatism.

In Canada, the central policy of the Liberal government of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien has been deficit reduction; next budget year, for the first time in nearly three decades, the government may not need to borrow any money at all. Now ministers focus on when to cut taxes and by how much, and debate in the campaign for June 2 elections turn on not whether to shrink government but by how much.

### Apolitical Revolution

At the depressed heart of the welfare state, in France, change is less clear cut and more contested. Nonetheless, amid coded signals and continuing taboos over endorsing "Anglo-Saxon" economic models, Mr. Chirac's Gaullist party and other members of his right-of-center coalition have been making clear that they believe the age of the government "fonctionnaire" is over. Jean Arthuis, the Finance Minister, went so far last week as to declare that he was delighted that "the welfare state is finished," adding that "too much state kills the state." In a country where the state's role as guarantor of welfare, engine of industry and nexus of society has long been assumed, and where the number of functionaries has risen to 5.5 million from 4.4 million during the past 15 years, such a statement was revolutionary in its audacity. But it is no longer blasphemy.

In response, France's Socialists talk about being a modern party and providing seed capital to small and medium-sized industry. But the party's discourse is still marked by a brand of socialism that promises 350,000 new state-sector jobs to

fight unemployment of 12.8 percent. So far this message seems to have left voters unconvinced, and thus Mr. Chirac's government is favored to win the election despite its deep unpopularity during the past two years.

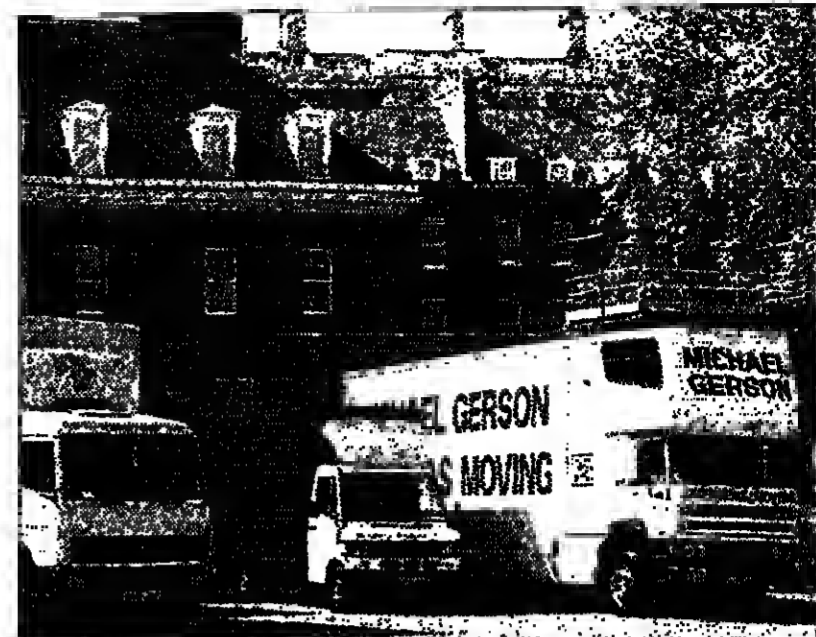
One interesting aspect of the campaign is the desire expressed in many quarters for an apolitical but effective Prime Minister; voters often voice a preference for Christian Blanc, the blunt, hard-driving, telegenic government employee who has wrested state-owned Air France from disaster and prepared it for privatization.

Mr. Blanc was a socialist, but now says, "I don't give a damn about ideology — all I care about is effectiveness." He says he still values socialism's emphasis on human dignity, solidarity, the general interest and the need to fight injustice. But economic socialism is bunk.

The words could have come from Mr. Blair, who has not questioned Margaret Thatcher's sweeping privatizations but has put improvements in education and health care at the heart of his program. He has also proposed a "welfare-to-work program" financed by a levy on "the excess profits of the privatized utilities." The very notion of "excess profits" seems unthinkable in America.

It is in such matters where the critical test of the American-led global political revolution may lie. Without genuine sensitivity toward those on the wrong end of the changes, the seeds of upheaval could be planted.

The end of the last century brought a similarly sweeping revolution — the cars, trains and industries that made nations whole and brought the masses closer to political life. Few imagined then how those trends would be exploited by fascists and Communists, leading to tens of millions of deaths. The American-led shift in civilization is full of promise; but its ultimate consequences remain unclear.



... moving his family not to 10 Downing St. but roomier digs at No. 11.

## Populist Pomp: 'Just Call Me Tony'

By WARREN HOGE

LONDON  
**E**XCEPT for the coronation of a monarch, there isn't a more richly traditional occasion on the British ceremonial calendar than the State Opening of Parliament.

The centuries-old pageant includes a separate gilded carriage to carry velvet cushions bearing the diamond studded Imperial State Crown, the Sword of State and the miniver-trimmed crimson Cap of Maintenance. Then the Duke of Norfolk, the Lord Chancellor and the Marquis of Cholmondeley, who address the Queen in the House of Lords, retire from her presence humbly — and carefully — by walking backwards down stairs and through corridors.

The titles of participants are gloriously preposterous — Silver Stick in Waiting, Mistress of the Robes, Rouge Dragon Pursuivant, Maltravers Herald Extraordinary and Lady of the Bedchamber.

Such an absurdly outmoded observance seems an odd way to usher in the new Labor government, but that ceremony remains one of the few things in British public life that earnest new arrivals in the capital cannot change. Only a monarch can do that, and none of them has chosen to since Edward VII reviewed the procedure 90 years ago and pronounced it right up to date.

But Tony Blair, the new Prime Minister, who calls himself the product of the "rock and roll generation," is changing what he can. And with a 179-seat majority in the House of Commons, a tightly disciplined party lectured almost daily about the sanctity of loyalty and an enraptured public behind him, he's free to do as he pleases.

Mr. Blair opened his first cabinet meeting with the instruction "Just call me Tony" and with those four words tossed away centuries of British custom under which ministers always addressed one another by their titles.

### Roll Up Your Sleeves

That was not all. Mr. Blair moved his wife and three children not to 10 Downing Street but to the more spacious quarters at 11 Downing Street. And he moved himself out of the cabinet room where his predecessor John Major did business and set up a shirt-sleeved work space behind a sofa in a cramped room.

Any sense that Mr. Blair's relaxed personal style bespeaks a loss of con-

trol was dispelled by the cabinet's first action. The members renounced the raises they were entitled to and pledged to trim their budgets.

If anything, the new casual atmosphere suggests great confidence and power. On Wednesday, when the members of the royal family in their tiaras, the ambassadors with their sashes and medals and the judges and bishops in their wigs proceeded solemnly to Westminster in limousines and coaches, Mr. Blair grabbed his wife Cherie by the hand and walked the two blocks from the official residence to Parliament, smiling and waving at onlookers.

### A Merry Band

When the sergeant-at-arms, dressed neck to stocking in the ceremonial costume of the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, rapped his ebony stick topped with a gold lion's head against the door of Commons and announced, "The Queen commands this honorable house to attend her majesty immediately," the group that rose to follow him over to the House of Lords was like no other ever seen in Parliament.

Of the 659 members, 120 are women, nearly twice the number as in the last Parliament, and they bring welcome splashes of spring color. By one newspaper's reckoning, the beard count has gone from 30 to 50. And the vigor of the young legislators, 260 of whom are new to the Parliament, reminded observers of a freshman class just in from holidays.

The second most powerful man in the new government, the Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, announced he would not wear the traditional white tie when he delivers the yearly Mansion House speech in London's financial district next month. And the third member of the ruling triumvirate, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, found a new way to present the new foreign policy of Britain. He set up a space-age video display with pounding rock music beneath the gilded chandeliers at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Both Mr. Brown and Mr. Cook were seen hunching in their department cafeterias, firsts for Whitehall.

When George Stephanopoulos, the former Clinton aide, addressed the Institute of Public Relations on Monday night he recalled that the Clinton administration in its honeymoon days had gone in for what he called the "burger bar stuff," discarding the mystique that sustains governments in trouble. He said he had "one note of caution" for his friends in the Blair Administration: "It is not to overdo the populism."

## When the Enemy of a Friend Is You

By JOEL GREENBERG

JERUSALEM  
**I**F anyone needed a reminder to what depths Israeli-Palestinian relations have sunk, the recent murder of an Arab real estate dealer accused of selling land to Jews recalled patterns of hostility thought to have faded in an era of peace.

It wasn't only the grisly killing of the dealer, who was found bound and bludgeoned on May 9 in the Palestinian-ruled town of Ramallah, that was telling: it was the equanimity with which Palestinian leaders have regarded the slaying, in which two Arabs were arrested last week.

After declaring land sales to Jews a form of "high treason," and thus a capital crime, earlier this month, Palestinian officials pointedly avoided condemning the slaying, revealing the bitterness that has built up as relations with Israel have unraveled in disputes over the building of Jewish settlements and violence by Arab militants.

The two-month freeze in negotiations between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority has soured the atmosphere on the streets.

And for now, many Israelis and Palestin-

ians seem to be suspended between old, familiar perceptions of conflict and still-unfulfilled expectations of cooperation.

The Clinton Administration's eovoy, Dennis Ross, tried last week to prod Israeli and Palestinian negotiators back together, with little success. In their one meeting, suspicion was rife, and the Palestinians later accused Mr. Ross of favoring the Israelis.

### A Regression

Dr. Ahmad Tibi, an Israeli Arab adviser to Yasir Arafat, who often interprets Israeli and Palestinian attitudes to both sides, said the relationship between the two peoples had undergone "a regression on all levels" as the political crisis has deepened.

"Relations in recent months have gone back to a situation of conflict more than partnership," Dr. Tibi said. "Neither the Palestinians nor the Israelis have fully internalized the concept of partnership, and it has remained more a matter of semantics that has not been realized on the ground. The process will take years."

The old vocabulary of hatred surfaced after the killing of the land dealer. The Mufti of Jerusalem, the highest-ranking Muslim cleric in the city, cited a decades-old reli-

gious ruling to pronounce the dealer's body unfit for Muslim burial because he had sold land to Jews.

Despite "alleged peace accords" with them, the Israelis are still an enemy, asserted the Mufti, Sheikh Ikrama Sabri, an appointee of Mr. Arafat.

"The Zionist entity exists on seized land," he said in an interview last week. "The Jews remain enemies because they expropriate lands, build settlements, and pay high sums to buy properties. They are the greatest enemy of us Muslims."

The Israelis, including army and intelligence chiefs, remain suspicious of their erstwhile partners in the fight against terrorism: the Palestinian security forces. Some Israeli officials have made harsh statements of their own.

Maj. Gen. Shlomo Yanai, the commander of Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip, warned in a recent interview in the Yediot Ahranot newspaper that if clashes were to break out between Israeli and Palestinian forces he wanted to see "30 Palestinian police officers dead, not wounded."

Several weeks earlier, the head of the Israeli anti-terror task force, Meir Dagan, was quoted as calling the Palestinian security chief in the West Bank, Jibril Rajoub, "a



In Jerusalem, Palestinians on the way to the mosque pass Jews coming from prayers.

thug in a suit and tie." Israelis accused Mr. Rajoub at the time of organizing anti-Israeli riots in the West Bank.

Palestinian security chiefs are suspicious of their Israeli counterparts, who they say are continuing to use agents in Palestinian-ruled areas. At a recent news conference, they presented a Palestinian who said he had worked with the Israeli security service in

the Gaza Strip to plant booby-trapped bombs on two would-be suicide attackers, who were killed when the bombs exploded before they reached their targets.

As expectations dim, Dr. Tibi said, the language of conflict re-emerges. "When you destroy someone's hope," he said, "you force him to fall back on old tools."



# The World

## The Russian Economy: Notes From Underground

By MICHAEL R. GORDON

If you want to know what is happening in the Russian economy, it helps to think about bread. Government statistics show that people are eating more bread and bakeries are selling less. Or consider vodka. Distillers are able to produce far more vodka than is officially being sold. But given the well-deserved Russian fondness for vodka there is every reason to think the distilleries are operating at full capacity.

The Russian Government's top number crunchers say the contradictions are easy to explain: high taxes, government red tape and the simple desire to sock away some extra cash have driven much of Russia's economic activity underground.

For the last six years, the Russian economy has been going down, down, down. But as President Boris N. Yeltsin tries to deliver the growth he has promised, economists are taking a closer look at the murky but

they say it is not yet clear whether Russia is firmly on the path of economic growth.

There is no question that measuring economic activity in a former Communist country on the bumpy road to capitalism is a frustratingly elusive task.

"There is a serious problem with post-socialist statistics," said Yegor T. Gaidar, the former Prime Minister and the pro-reform director of the Institute of Economic Problems of the Transitional Period.

"Seven years ago to report an increase in the amount of production was to become a Hero of Socialist Labor," he said. "Now it is to get additional visits from the tax collector."

A related problem is that plumbers, mechanics, farmers and small businesses carry out many of their transactions in cash. The favorite currency is the American dollar.

To make matters worse, the accounting of larger companies is often byzantine and almost impossible for outside auditors to decipher. And smuggling capital out of Russia has become a national pastime.

How then does the government estimate the unmeasurable? The short answer is with the help of an army of bureaucrats at the State Committee of Statistics, otherwise known as Goskomstat, which collects statistics on industry, agriculture and trade.

Goskomstat, for example, gathers production data from the more than 22,000 large enterprises that have more than 100 employees. It also surveys the volatile small-business sector.

All this information is cross-checked with data on consumption, exports and commodities sales, as green-eyed specialists look for misrepresentation. It is more an art than a science.

Earlier this year, Goskomstat field units concluded that small enterprises were trying to evade the government's crackdown on tax delinquents by under-reporting production even more than usual.

So Goskomstat adjusted its assumptions. It concluded that the small enterprises accounted for about 25 percent of industrial production, instead of 20 percent. That had the effect, in turn, of raising the Government's estimate of the shadow economy from 20 to 22 percent.

Those seemingly small changes had important po-



After shadowing the shadow economy, a tax officer guards accused illegal-alcohol dealers near Moscow.

### Business is either in the red or it's rosy, depending on who's doing the counting.

vibrant shadow economy. It includes everything from small businesses that never report their sales to huge companies that understate their production to avoid taxes.

Government experts insist that if the shadow economy is taken into account, the overall economy is finally starting to grow. In turn, Mr. Yeltsin's critics complain that the new calculations are more propaganda than economics.

Western specialists generally agree that the economy appears to have halted its precipitous decline, but

litical implications: Russia's gross domestic product went up 0.1 percent in January and 0.9 percent in February. It was the first real economic growth after six years of decline.

Not surprisingly, there were more than a few critics who complained that the new numbers were nothing more than part of a statistical shell game to burnish the Government's image. But some Western experts say the Yeltsin Government's new figures may actually underestimate the shadow economy, and thus the gross domestic product.

The International Monetary Fund estimates that Russia's G.D.P. is roughly 20 percent greater than Goskomstat reports.

But Western economists believe that Goskomstat made a technical error in carrying out its calculations. They say that as a matter of consistency the new assumptions that led to a bigger gross domestic product for the first months of 1997 need to be applied retroac-

tively to at least the last half of 1996.

When that is done the new growth will appear to be less of a spurt and more of a gradual trend. But even with that kicked into the equation, the economy still appears to have grown compared with January 1996.

Meanwhile, Goskomstat is still trying to root out underground deals. When Mikhail S. Gorbachev was General Secretary of the Soviet Union, the Kremlin launched an anti-alcohol campaign. Many distilleries were shut and vineyards cut down. But after the ill-fated campaign came to an end, Russia's alcohol production was restored.

Valeri V. Dalin, the deputy chairman of Goskomstat, says Russian distillers now have the capacity to produce about 40 bottles of vodka a year for every man, woman and child in the country. But production statistics show that there are only about 25 bottles per capita.

"Naturally," he said with a smile, "that served as a certain kind of signal for us."

### Civil, It Wasn't

## Defining a War to Determine the Crime

By MARLISE SIMONS

THE HAGUE name of Slobodan Milosevic, President of Serbia, is rarely spoken in the pristine courtroom where war crimes in the former Yugoslavia are being scrutinized. But his spirit is very much present. In fact, the Serb leader appears to have scored something of a victory here in recent days. Infamous for outmaneuvering Western governments, Mr. Milosevic has now by some accounts hoodwinked two of the tribunal's judges.

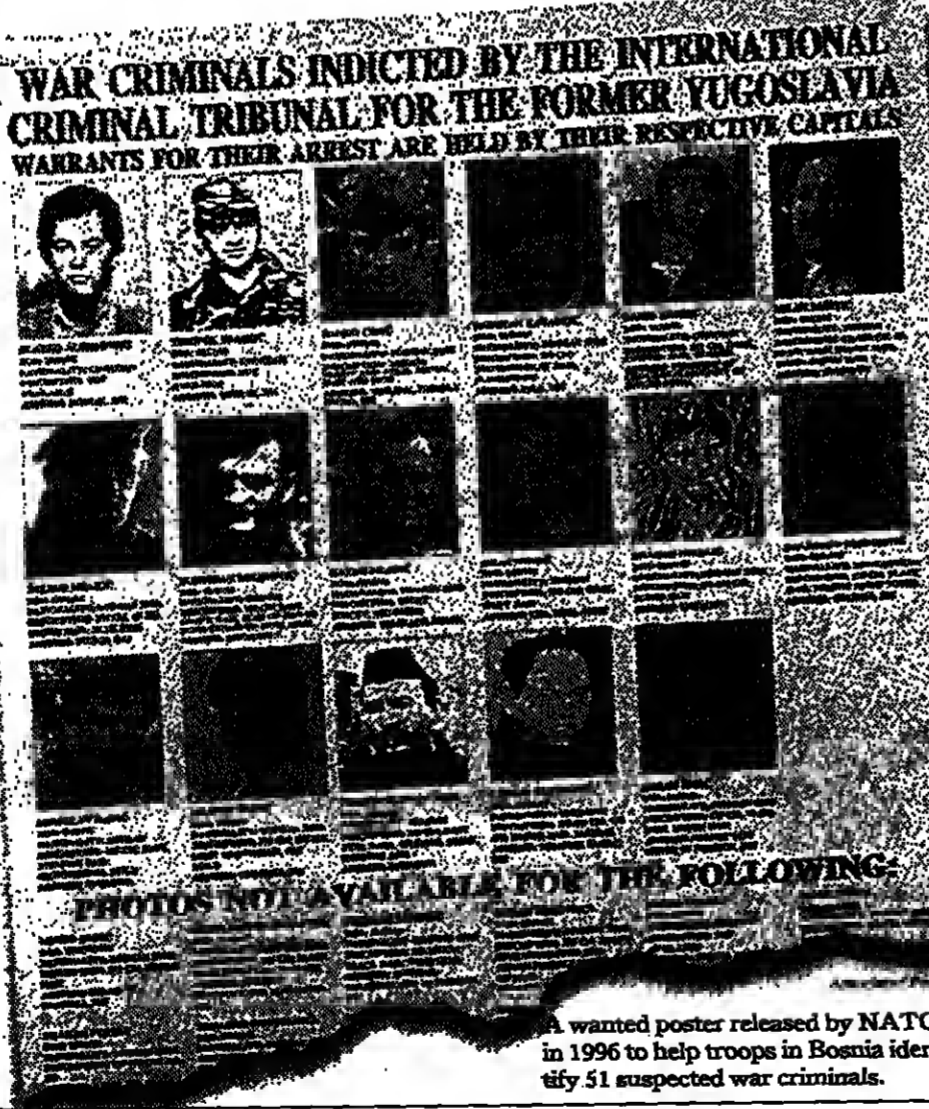
Mr. Milosevic's spirit was evident on May 7 as the United Nations Tribunal concluded its first full trial. Three judges found Dusan Tadic, 41, a Bosnian Serb, guilty of killing two Muslim policemen and of persecuting and torturing many Muslim civilians between May and December 1992.

Mr. Tadic was only a small wheel in a war machine that committed immense atrocities. Yet when the court cleared him of some charges, it may well have been responding to a one of Mr. Milosevic's stratagems.

At the heart of the verdict was a little-noticed but crucial issue. The judges for the first time had to address the question: was the war in Bosnia an internal conflict or an international one?

Most Western governments would reply that it was international, arguing that ruthless ethnic cleansing campaigns were orchestrated from Belgrade; after Bosnia became independent in March 1992, the assaults from Belgrade continued.

But two of the three judges here ruled that the prosecution had failed to demonstrate that Belgrade had full control over the Bosnian Serb forces. Therefore, the judges concluded, the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which



protect people and property in an international armed conflict, did not apply.

The immediate result was that in Mr. Tadic's case, the court dismissed 11 counts of "grave breaches" of the Geneva Conventions, in which he was accused of mistreating Muslims in Serb-run prison camps.

But this ruling could well affect many other cases, and has set off shock waves among prosecutors and experts in international law. "This ruling narrows the field considerably," said one court official. "It means that before we can convict anyone under the heading of 'grave breaches,' we have to reach a much higher standard of proof than we had before."

### Other Nations' Business

There's more. Countries that have signed the Geneva Conventions must prosecute "grave breaches." If the conventions do not apply in Bosnia, "we are cutting back on the potential of other states to prosecute," a senior court official said. This means, for example, are trying people charged with war crimes in the former Yugoslavia.

The Hague tribunal, which has indicted 74 people, can still bring charges of "genocide," of violations of "the laws and customs of war" and "crimes against humanity." And prosecutors said their cases against the most senior Serb leaders, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, were solid.

But Mr. Milosevic must be pleased. Making the Bosnian war look like an internal conflict was part of his stratagem. Under international pressure to stop interfering in Bosnia, Mr. Milosevic concocted a new name and identity for part of his military and created the Bosnian Serb forces in May 1992. He went on to use them largely as his own, diplomats said. His secret police also ran

paramilitary groups in Croatia and Bosnia.

In the May 7 ruling, the court accepted that Belgrade "supplied" salaries, weapons and communications. But Judges Ninian Stephen of Australia and Lal Chand Vohrah of Malaysia said it was not enough to prove that the Bosnian Serb forces were "dependent, even completely dependent" on Belgrade; proof was needed that Serbia effectively controlled the Bosnian Serbs' actions.

"Surely the judges did not intend to endorse Milosevic's subterfuges," said an international lawyer. "But they ended up playing a game he designed."

It was on this question that the presiding judge, Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, an American, clashed with the others. In a strong dissent asserting that the conflict was international, she wrote that the creation of the Bosnian Serb forces "was a legal fiction." She said it was not necessary to prove "effective and daily control" by Belgrade but only that the Bosnian Serbs were its agent.

The legal entanglement holds some irony. At the very least, it is uncomfortable for Washington, a strong supporter of the tribunal. The two judges who in effect weakened the prosecutors' hand, looking for the closest legal precedent, found a parallel in American support of the Nicaraguan contras.

In 1986, the International Court of Justice found that the United States committed violations like financing the contras, but it said the contras' acts could not be construed as acts of the United States because it did not have total control. The tribunal's judges ruled that, similarly, acts of Bosnian Serbs cannot be construed as acts of Belgrade without proof of Belgrade's total control.

The tribunal is now investigating atrocities by paramilitary groups controlled directly by the secret police in Belgrade. There, the Geneva Conventions may be found to apply.

## Europe's New Order: Making a Club, Not War

Continued From Page 1

defense treaty, can concentrate increasingly on its political function."

Critics find all that unconvincing, noting that bigger clubs tend to become weaker clubs. (Look at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which already includes Moscow as a member.) In addition, Tony Judt, a student of modern Germany, questions NATO's value in promoting democracy. He wrote in *The New York Review*: "It was not membership in NATO that ensured Spain's relatively untroubled progress toward parliamentary democracy. Moreover, both Turkey and Portugal were for many years members of NATO without making much progress towards democratic regimes or an end to ethnic, religious or colonial conflicts." He also fears the consequences of admitting some nations and excluding others, like the Baltic states and Ukraine, that Russia may covet.

But the question that matters most

is whether NATO expansion makes it more or less likely that Russia will continue to build a constructive relationship with the West, just as the largest question after World War II was whether West Germany could be incorporated into the Western alliance.

The Administration succeeded in winning Moscow's approval of an arrangement the Russians detest, a signal achievement. But in doing so, it apparently doomed prospects for early ratification of the Start 2 treaty by the Russian Parliament, which means there will be no reduction of nuclear warheads, as envisaged in the treaty, to between 3,000 and 3,500 on each side. So in that sense, at least, expanding NATO seems likely to damage, not promote, the security that NATO was created to nurture.

Michael Mandelbaum, another leading opponent of expansion, fears that the arms treaties will only be a first step. He sees the creation of an even larger European bloc from which Russia is excluded as a lasting



Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, left, and NATO Secretary General Javier Solana, agreeing on NATO expansion last week in Moscow.

wound in the tender Russian psyche, which could in time cause that nation's political culture to be dominated by feelings of humiliation. Making the analogy to the German humiliation at Versailles, he speaks of the unwitting creation of a "Weimar Russia." Ultra-nationalism can flourish in such an environment.

When the Senate and the parliaments of other NATO members begin considering the revised treaty, probably next year, some will argue that Russia has been treated harshly. Some will argue that expansion is too costly. But some will argue that too much has been conceded to Moscow, and that could further complicate the process of amassing the needed two-thirds vote in the Senate.

Moscow is to be included in NATO decisions — given the right to suggest, to kibitz, to bring pressure on the others to operate by consensus. There will be no Russian veto, but it could be time-consuming to bring the Russians around and costly to vote them down, on operational matters

and on questions like ultimate membership for Baltic nations.

If NATO and its mission had not been radically changed, nobody would be asking the Russians to drop in for meetings. Nor could NATO as conceived have countenanced promises to keep weapons out of some member countries, as is to be the case with the New NATO. In effect, two classes of membership have been created.

So is this still NATO, or is it not? Lord Isamy, NATO's first secretary-general, once said with famous indiscretion that the goals of the organization were "to keep the Americans in, the Russians out and the Germans down." Keeping the Germans down has long since been abandoned. The new NATO clearly has kept the Americans in; continued American engagement in Europe was a big reason for British, French and German support.

Whether the Russians will be kept out, and how much they will resent it if they are, is the impendable.

# Ideas & Trends

## Casting Pebbles in the War Against Adultery

By JAN HOFFMAN

**T**O the Air Force, a 26-year-old bomber pilot who fell hard for a four-star bad boyfriend deserves to be court-martialed for a handful of military crimes including adultery, the quintessentially biblical sin. To most Americans, she does not. They have been reacting with amazement, not least because for decades, civilian courts have responded to adultery with a big yawn.

It's not that adultery laws don't exist. It's that they're not enforced. Although 75 percent of Americans believe adultery is always wrong, the lack of enforcement reflects a certain ambivalence over whether the government should be peeping into bedrooms.

In half the states, adultery is still a crime. In some, including Oklahoma, Idaho, Michigan, Wisconsin and Massachusetts, it's even a felony. Professor Katharine B. Silbaugh of Boston University law school, a co-author with Richard A. Posner, a Federal judge, of "A Guide to America's Sex Laws" (1996), said state laws vary

Half the states still consider cheating a crime, but it's rarely prosecuted.

according to which lover should be prosecuted: "The married one will always be guilty," she said, "but the question is whether the unmarried one is also guilty."

According to her guidebook, in Arizona, for example, both parties are guilty of a misdemeanor, as long as one is married. By contrast, the District of Columbia holds that when the act is between a married woman and an unmarried man, both parties are guilty, but that when the lovers include a married man and unmarried woman, only the man is guilty.

Maryland has declared adultery a misdemeanor, but the punishment is just a \$10 fine. (Some people have quipped that the state income tax could be jettisoned altogether if the fine were raised to \$1,000 and platoons

of officers unleashed to enforce the law.) And in Minnesota, the misdemeanor of adultery, said legislators in 1963, is an act between a married woman and a man other than her husband. Sex between a married man and an unmarried woman is not prohibited.

Prosecutions, though rare, are not unheard of. Professor Silbaugh said they usually accompany another crime, or are used to go after troublemakers. And so in 1970 a Pennsylvania jury found a man guilty of adultery and bastardy, and the case, which resurfaced in the courts 13 years later, was used to compel the defendant to keep up his child support payments.

### Tracked Down in Worcester

In 1983, a Worcester, Mass., woman challenged the constitutionality of the state adultery law, for which she was arrested after police officers watched her get into a van with a man and have sex with him. But the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts said that although her concerns about a right to privacy had merit, the state had an interest in prohibiting conduct that would threaten the institution of marriage.

And in 1990, a 28-year-old Wisconsin woman was arrested for the felony of adultery after her husband swore out a criminal complaint. Charges were dismissed after she agreed to go for counseling, but the case created an uproar. A state legislator wanted to decriminalize adultery, but beat a hasty retreat when voters warned him they considered his proposal an affront to family values.

The Air Force is more vigilant — the service brought 67 adultery prosecutions last year — but surely those numbers don't reflect the incidence of adultery in its ranks. Against that backdrop, the court-martial faced this week by First Lieut. Kelly Flinn, a young, single woman, struck many as unfair. If she had been a civilian, she wouldn't have been charged; she would have been comforted.

Adultery is considered even less odious in divorce court than in criminal court. Following the divorce reform of the 1970's, all states have no-fault divorce, which means that a party no longer has to allege a specific fault, like adultery, as grounds. A minority of states also allow adultery as grounds, but that usually only serves to speed the process.

In fact many beardsick spouses who fantasize that a judge will wreak vengeance on the philanderer are



From "Our Literary Heritage"

Once, adultery was a crime and then some. In "The Scarlet Letter," Hester Prynne is led to judgment.

shocked to learn that when it comes to divorce court, the only cheating a judge cares about is on income reporting. And just a handful of states say that if adultery is at issue, a judge may, but not must, consider it a factor in the division of marital property.

In truth, the Sixth Commandment just doesn't pack the same oomph anymore. The term "adultery" — as distinguished from the practice — has grown dusty from lack of use. Instead, today's descriptive language dilutes condemnation with a drop of wistfulness. Philanderer, rather than adulterer. A faithless spouse has wanderin' eyes, a cheatin' heart. Even more watered down — has an extramarital affair. Sex opinion surveys ask: "Have you ever had sex with someone other than your spouse while

you were married?" A tenet of the anti-divorce movement is that couples should repair the breach of marital trust exposed by the affair, because divorce is a far greater family crime than adultery.

"One can believe adultery is improper and wrong but not something that you should necessarily be punished for," said Stuart Michaels, a co-author of the "Sex in America" survey published in 1992.

Indeed a smattering of states have no adultery statutes, criminal or matrimonial. Not Hawaii, a honeymoon mecca. Not California, certainly. And not Nevada, which has quickie divorces, quicker marriages and ubiquitous brothels: anti-adultery laws would be just plain bad for business.

### Machine vs. Machine

## Deep, Deeper, Deepest Blue

GEORGE JOHNSON

**F**OR those who worry that losing a chess match to a machine somehow diminishes humanity, Deep Blue's victory over Garry Kasparov last week was easy to explain away. Deep Blue is a powerful machine, and the outcome of the match was no more surprising than if Mr. Kasparov had tried to outrun a train. But if you think again, the whole thing is eerie. One kind of computer, made of neurons, lost to another kind of computer, made of microchips.

Chess is just calculation, right? The rules of the game, the various strategies and algorithms are all coded into computer language. Feed a string of binary digits into one end of the machine — the sequence of 1's and 0's describing Mr. Kasparov's latest move — and information bounces around in the computer like steel balls in a pachinko game. Then out comes another string of 1's and 0's, the computer's countermove.

### Another Pachinko Game

But if the reigning model of the cognitive scientists is right, the brain is also a computer, a shuffler of information. Deep Blue's latest move falls like a shadow on Mr. Kasparov's retina — a knight where there was once an empty square. Then the image is converted into a sequence of electrochemical pulses that are carried up the optic nerve and into the brain. There the pulses — like pachinko balls again — are sifted through the sieve of neurons, circuitry fine-tuned over the years to calculate the best moves in the game.

When the neurological ricocheting is done, another string of pulses emerges from the brain and causes motor nerves to direct the muscles in Mr. Kasparov's hand to pick up a chess piece and move it to a new position on the board.

It's not a matter of man versus machine but machine versus machine. At this point, Mr. Kasparov is still a much more interesting computer than Deep Blue. He knows when he makes a bad move and displays behavior that other humans interpret as regret. In tense moments, signals are sent to his stomach causing it to secrete acid. Sensory nerves detect the corrosive fluid and send danger signals to his brain. The pain motivates him to focus his attention, make better moves and relieve the suffering. Evolution programmed him that way.

Deep Blue doesn't have a stomach, and it devotes every bit of its resources to winning the game. It doesn't need some jury-rigged contraption like regret to focus its energy. But someday there will be a Deeper Blue. Like Mr. Kasparov's brain, it might scrutinize its opponents' physical behavior for signs of nervousness and scan its own past moves to see which could have been better.

To make sure Deeper Blue doesn't fritter away too much time on these ancillary activities, programmers might give it the digital equivalent of a stomach — an internal gauge whose reading (call it anxiety) increases when it senses that its opponent pulls ahead. When the anxiety level is low, Deeper Blue might allow itself the luxury of contemplating long-range strategies or surprise moves.



Jack Manning/The New York Times

Deep Blue was packed up after its winning chess match against Garry Kasparov.

When the anxiety reading is high, it would focus on the immediate game.

Artificial anxiety might be the key to making Deeper Blue want to win. Its rules about chess could be supplemented with rules about life: that the goal is not just to make the best possible play each turn, but to keep on winning and to gain fame. What is "fame"? Define it as the number of times that one's name appears in television broadcasts, newspaper and magazine stories and on the Internet. If your opponent is winning the recognition game, the anxiety meter would start rising. To relieve the tension, the computer would draw more attention to itself. Call a press conference or throw a fit — fire up the random number generator to induce erratic and newsworthy behavior.

### Mental Models

For computers and brains to be aware of something they must have an internal model of it — a representation, either digital or neurological. In the recent match, Mr. Kas-

parov kept honing his mental model of Deep Blue, developing a theory of how the machine worked. But Deep Blue could not learn on its own. The programmers had to do the fine-tuning. In last week's match, the evolving model of Mr. Kasparov was distributed among the programmers, their chess consultant and Deep Blue itself. But there is no reason why the entire representation of Mr. Kasparov could not eventually be contained inside Deeper Blue's memory.

And if Deeper Blue can have a model of Mr. Kasparov, then Deeper Blue probably could also have a model of itself. In some books that would count as consciousness. At this point, Mr. Kasparov or his great granddaughter might have a sporting chance again, for they could wage psychological warfare against the computer, just as they would with a human opponent. And since the machine would now have stooped to its opponent's level, it would only be fair to give the human player a computer to do fast chess calculations. The game would become interesting again.

## Squeezing a Lot Into the Middle Class

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Republican of North Carolina, said last year his combined congressional salary and police pension (as an officer in New York City and the chief in Raleigh) of \$183,500 made him lower middle class. "When I see someone who is making anywhere from \$300,000 to \$750,000," Mr. Heineman was quoted as saying, "that's middle class."

More Americans may be better off today than in the 1950's. Back then, though, most toiled with the expectation that they would wind up better off. If some identified their parents with the blue-collar Kramdens, their own models were the white-collar Cleavers.

### Money Always Helps

"Americans, especially, have blurred strictly economic class boundaries by reason of their hopes, not necessarily their wealth," wrote the historian Loren Baritz. Having wealth doesn't hurt.

Almost everybody today has a television set; more Americans have two or more cars than have one or none. But it often costs more to get well, go to college (a four-year degree has become a minimal middle-class standard) or buy a house.

The National Association of Realtors reported earlier this month that nearly half of America's families don't make enough to qualify for a mortgage on a \$119,400 median priced home. And in New York City, a couple making \$150,000 a year and budgeting 25 percent of their after-tax income on housing could afford about \$2,000 a month for rent, which is a luxury rate but does not guarantee luxury accommodations. (Under Governor Pataki's proposal, the rent for many tenants who make more than \$175,000 a year could be deregulated; that process, called luxury decontrol, now applies to people who make more than \$250,000.)

"In order to be middle class as our culture is coming to understand the term," Barbara Ehrenreich has written, "one almost has to be rich."

And remain rich. Among working couples, if the lesser paid spouse were laid off, half the couples in the top one-fourth of earners would fall into the middle half (with middle-class incomes ranging from

\$20,000 to \$60,000), according to a survey for The New York Times by the Program for Applied Social Research at Queens College of the City University of New York. Fully one-third of earners in the middle half would slip into the bottom quarter.

"The rising tide lifted all boats in the 50's, the 60's, the 70's," Mr. Reich said last year. "Since then, the rising tide has lifted the yachts."

High expectations increase frustration when people are working two jobs and falling deeper into debt. "That disillusionment feeds on itself," Mr. Reich says, "and becomes easy prey for politicians who want to place the blame on immigration, affirmative action, welfare and other things that are not the underlying cause."

Going back at least to Franklin D. Roosevelt, politicians described the middle class as forgotten Americans — remembering them often enough, though, to enact tax deductions and other benefits that might be denounced as giveaways to the rich or handouts for the poor. Maybe that's because the middle class and the wealthy are more likely to vote than the poor.

Definitions of middle-class income depend on variables like the number of wage earners and dependents, the cost of living, whether food stamps are counted and how much wealth has been socked away. It's determined not only by disposable or discretionary income but by how it's spent, which also suggests social class, or to invoke an even more un-American term, status.

Professor Fussell devised a somewhat facetious "living room scale" to assess social class using various middle-class totems. Begin with a score of 100 and then subtract for items like original paintings by family members (minus four points each) and plastic covers on furniture (minus 6) and add points for others. (6 for overflow books stacked on the floor and 3 for each family photograph in a sterling silver frame.)

Which only goes to show that, as Mr. Baritz said, class may be determined less by Marx than by Flaubert. It's the difference between classlessness and no class at all.

### Sizing Up the Social Ladder

Percentage of people in each group, by annual household income, and how they identify themselves. Those with no answer are not shown.



Based on a national New York Times/CBS News poll conducted Feb. 9-11, 1993, with 1,154 adults.

The New York Times

MOVIE REVIEW

# Murphy's law

By ADINA HOFFMAN

Eddie Murphy's swagger and smirk have fascinated cultural critics ever since he first jet-rocketed into the popular imagination in the early 80s with a string of outrageous and racially loaded appearances on the TV show *Saturday Night Live*. How, they asked, can a comic be so unflappably confident, even arrogant, as Murphy - then just aged 21?

METRO

Directed by Thomas Carter. Screenplay by Randy Feldman. Hebrew title: *Metro* 118 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance very strongly advised.

With Eddie Murphy, Michael Rapoport, Michael Wincott, Art Evans

Most comedians find humor in self-deprecation, or use their jokes as a kind of nervous defense. Murphy, meanwhile, comes at us shouting, cursing, with that crazed Buckwheat grin planted on his big black mouth, and practically orders us to take offense. And the laughter that invariably bursts forth during these routines is complicated: at once uneasy and relieved. His aggression, especially toward

whites and white society, is so profound, so undiluted, that one - if one is white - can't help but shift in one's seat. At the same time, laughing at his nastiness provides an enormous release. Of all the possible ways to respond when a nerve is exposed, laughter feels the most (for lack of a better word) constructive.

That was the young Eddie Murphy. The vitality and relevance of his humor have flickered on and off since those early days. Now, of course, he's an international box-office sensation, a star whose raw instincts have been packaged and peddled all over the world. His shtick sells; he is probably the most successful black actor in the history of film, in both financial and popular terms - a rather astonishing fact, when one stops to consider the barely masked racial rage that informs so much of his work.

On the other hand, Murphy himself is the savviest of self-promoters. He knows very well what the market will bear, and in several of his recent pictures, he has deliberately exchanged the persona of the angry black man for a less hostile, more satisfied sort of hero.

Last year's inspired *The Nutty Professor* showed how very funny Murphy can be in his new, non-confrontational capacity. Alas, this year's *Metro* doesn't even try to make us laugh. Thomas Carter's cruddy grab bag of an action-adventure/buddy movie/character study/romance restores Murphy to



Eddie Murphy (right) plays a hostage negotiator and Michael Rapoport his protegee in the strangely unfunny 'Metro.'

the role of agitated big mouth, a San Francisco Police Department hostage negotiator, but it configures his usual weapon - his scalding sense of humor. The film seems designed to help Murphy break free from comedy into straighter macho material, a losing proposition if there ever was one. All that's left here of the actor's usual jive-talking wise guy demeanor is his hostility: he shouts and swears and carries on, to profoundly unpleasant effect.

Aside from a few, seemingly-improvised comic scenes (by far the best moments in the film) the picture grinds along in the familiar, unsmiling fashion of a Dirty Harry movie, recycling empty-headed situations, conversations and car

chases from a dozen other films as it builds to the single creatively executed sequence in two hours - a prolonged violent struggle on a speeding cable car. Unfortunately, the film rambles on for another fifty minutes after this frenzied high point.

But why waste Eddie Murphy's talents on vehicular acrobatics of this generic sort? Any one of a dozen actors could pull off the physical feats that this role requires; presumably Murphy is on hand to bring life to the negotiations themselves, the scenes in which his character dons a bullet-proof vest, takes a deep breath and strides forth to face a hostage-taker head on, with nothing to help him

save the lives of the captives except his unflinching cool. If *Metro* were a well-written comedy, Murphy might be able to play these bits as extended stand-up routines, the ultimate in improvisational dexterity. But Randy Feldman's script is lamest and most confused at exactly these crucial points, which waffle somewhere between comedy and drama and rely for their charge on crude, I'm-gonna-blow-your-brains-out theatrics. Sure, there's a certain tension that comes from watching a lunatic gunman taunt a shrieking damsel in distress, but Murphy's joker bearing only makes the threat seem cynical, funny as a hole in the head.

vative & ugly

Kurds

28 to Mir

## An ideal performer

By HELEN KAYE

In the '50s, Richard Todd made female teenage hearts beat faster in movies like *The Dambusters*, *Robin Hood*, *The Hasty Heart* and *Chase a Crooked Shadow*. Now, a little older, a little more solid than he used to be, but still a charmer at 78, he plays old Lord Caversham in Peter Hall's long-running production of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*, coming to the Israel Festival on May 29.

This is Todd's first visit to Israel as an actor - when he came in the mid-'60s, he was a farmer. He'd met Yael Dayan when she was in England, he says from his London theater dressing room just before a matinee, "and she invited me to come to Israel. Her father [Moshe Dayan], who was minister of agriculture at the time, arranged it.

"I came for two weeks, went everywhere and saw everything. I had a morning with Ben Gurion too, in Tiberias. He was very energetic. We went for a walk and I had a job keeping up."

This is Todd's second encounter with *An Ideal Husband* too. Thirty years ago, he played Caversham's son, Lord Goring, at the Strand in the 1965/66 season, "and I was pretty bad at the beginning, after 17 years in film. I had to work at it."

Goring (Simon Ward in this production) is the hero of the play which is a story of political scandal, theft, and blackmail. Beneath that is the terrible price paid for blind admiration and misdirected secrecy, and the whole is irradiated with Wilde's pinpoint wit.

"I enjoy playing Caversham," says Todd. "He's a very typical man of his period and position, a crusty old boy with a sense of humor. He loves his son but is irritated to death by him and doesn't understand him. Goring loves his father but he understands him too, and that's how I played him."

It's said Wilde wrote himself when he wrote Goring, and the more than sad irony is that *An Ideal Husband* ends happily whereas Wilde's life did not. The play, and Wilde's other great comedy, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, premiered in 1895. Both were an immediate and huge success but were withdrawn from the stage after Wilde was convicted of homosexuality that same year and sentenced to two years of hard labor. Following his release, he exiled himself to Paris where he died in 1900.

In an article which director Peter Hall wrote when his production premiered in 1993, he said that *An Ideal Husband* is "a completely original farce. There is no play in English before nor, thanks to our treatment of the author, is there any like it after. It is a play about politics and power and the yawning gap that can open up between private and public morality."



Richard Todd had early ideas of becoming a playwright, but drama school made an actor out of him.

Political sleaze is alive and well just as much today as 102 years ago, here, just as much as in contemporary London. But Wilde's brief was not to condemn but to forgive, and "his philosophy was to be kind to people, do not condemn too easily," Todd observes. Basically, "the focus of the play is about right and wrong, and that hasn't changed. Attitudes have. Today nobody gives a damn."

Like Wilde, Todd is an Irishman, an Anglicized Irishman is how he puts it. His father was an Army doctor who later became a surgeon in civilian life.

Young Todd was sent away to boarding school in England at the age of six, but summer holidays were often spent "with my grandparents who lived in a wild area of Northern Ireland on the edge of a lake.

"It was a wonderful life. When I was 13 I got rheumatic fever with complications, but I went on [running about] anyway. I cured myself."

He had early ideas of becoming a playwright, but going to drama school made an actor of him and "I learned my craft in repertory theater. They don't exist anymore, unfortunately." That was in 1937.

Two years later, the war broke out and Todd enlisted in a parachute regiment and ended the war as a staff officer with the Sixth Airborne Division. (One of his best films was *The Dambusters* in 1954, the story of an RAF squadron which took on the mission of destroying the dams that provided power to the Ruhr, "and they changed nothing. It was very factual, almost like a documentary, no love interest.")

There have been films, stage, and of course TV in his 60 year career. He's had his own theater company, Triumph Productions, and has written two well received volumes of his autobiography. Even quadruple bypass surgery last year has only slowed him down a bit.

"They had to take away my breastbone," he quips, "so doo't poke me in the chest."

## On top of the opera world

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

At 62-years-old, Ioan Holender has definitely reached the peak of the opera world. And last week, Holender, general director of the Vienna Staatsoper, came here with the Staatsoper's ballet company to present a series of performances at the Tel Aviv Arts Center. Holender left after the opening night, but before that he talked about his life at the helm of one of the leading opera houses in the world, a house performing seven days a week over a 10-month season.

Holender is not a performing musician or a creative artist by profession. Before joining the Vienna Staatsoper he had been an agent for opera singers for over 25 years. "Then they approached me and asked me to move to the other side of the table," says the elegant and cheerful Holender. His initial nine-year contract in Vienna has since been extended for five more years, until 2002, quite a record for an organization to which music directors used to change regularly.

The Vienna Staatsoper has had at its helm such renowned musicians as Gustav Mahler, Lorin Maazel and Claudio Abbado, to name just a few, but the city was far from kind to them and none of them stayed in the job for very long. But the Romanian-born Jew who has lived in Vienna for many years is accepted by almost everyone, perhaps because he is not a conductor or a director. "Opera

houses should not be run by artists," Holender argues emphatically. "Artists think first and foremost about their art and not about the organization."

"Look, when Abbado was here it was wonderful, but the other great conductors did not come because he was keeping the best repertoire for himself. Now we have all the great conductors, Abbado, Muti, Mehta, Maazel is coming back, everybody." Israeli conductors too, "there is Asher Fisch, who is the music director of the Volksoper, Vienna's second opera house, who does a lot of work with us and Daniel Barenboim too." What about Daniel Oren? "He conducted here a few times but we have no contact any more whatsoever with him." Holender says without wishing to elaborate.

And as for Israeli singers, there is Anat Efrat, "a wonderful young soprano. She had many small parts this season and will play Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier* in *Der Feischutz* next season. We are very happy that she sings with us and I think she has a great international career ahead of her. I know she will be wonderful singing all the high lyric soprano roles in the repertoire."

The Vienna Staatsoper presents opera night after night, in rotation, many productions being presented with very little orchestral rehearsal

time, which apparently is very expensive in Vienna. "We have the best opera orchestra in the world [The Vienna Philharmonic] and they can play Wagner one night and Rossini the next without any problem."

Holender argues that opera is first and foremost a singers' world and he is more than happy with his ensemble of singers. He implies that every opera house in the world should have such an ensemble, "Singers," he says, "must have a home, and an opera house without its ensemble has no identity."

Will Holender also bring his opera company to Israel? "Opera is very expensive and touring opera is even more so. I don't see this happening," he says, despite his love for Israel and his desire to do all he can to help local musicians and opera singers.



Ioan Holender



Moshe Becker

## NEWS of the muse

### Animation magic

Animation and the animated is the name of the game at the third annual Creative Filmmaking 1997 to be held at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque from May 21-24. One of the highlights will be a screening of that Beatles classic *The Yellow Submarine*. There'll be tributes to those earlier special effects men in movies like *King Kong* (1933), with guests of honor John Coates and Norman Kauffman of TVC studios (they did the animation for *Yellow Submarine*) and numerous other movies. Most of the festival is in English. Helen Kaye

### Berlin Opera's Israel debut

The NIO is hosting the Berlin Opera, making its debut visit with six performances of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* from May 24-June 6 and four of Verdi's *A Masked Ball* from May 29-June 7. The company is coming with the orchestra and the choir. Lawrence Foster conducts the Mozart and Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos the Verdi, which also features soprano Michele Crider (*Il Trovatore* with the IPO), mezzo Larissa Diadkova (*Kovanschina* with the Kirov), and top baritone Roberto Servile. The director is Berlin Opera general director Götz Friedrich who will be directing *Samson and Delilah* for the NIO next season. Helen Kaye

### Shakespeare ... sort of

37 plays of Shakespeare are marvelously mauled by that inspired trio of sublime idiots otherwise known as the RSC. Goichal That's the Reduced Shakespeare Company comprising Chris Mellon, Matthew Rippy and Ross MacKenzie of the UK touring company. At the 1993 Israel Festival audiences fell off their seats laughing at *The Complete Works of Shakespeare - Abridged*. They came back again in '95 with *The Bible - Abridged* (not quite as funny), and now they'll be back with Shakespeare for four shows at the Cameri Theater in Tel Aviv, and one each in Kfar Saba, Haifa and Jerusalem starting from June 24. How do they do it? Well how about *The Comedy of Two Well Measured Gentlemen Locked In the Merry Wives of Windsor on a Midsummer's Twelfth Night in Winter? Hamlet's* in the second half. Helen Kaye

### Actors in opera

Actor Moshe Becker, who currently plays in the Haifa Theater production of *Angels in America*, will narrate two operatic productions next week: the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's abridged version of Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* (May 29 in Tel Aviv) and Mozart's rarely performed *Zaide* presented, sans dialogue, by the Warsaw Chamber Opera and the Israel Chamber Orchestra (May 28, 29 in Tel Aviv and May 31 in Haifa). Shalom Shmelov will narrate in Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra IBA presentation opening the Israel Festival (May 29, Jerusalem). Michael Ajzenstadt

### Menuhin Piano Chair inaugurated

The Jerusalem Rubin Academy of Music and Dance announced the inauguration of the Hepzibah Menuhin Piano Chair established through the generosity of Mr. Paul Morawitz. The purpose of the chair is "to foster young piano studies towards excellence and professionalism." The artistic director of the Chair is Professor Alexander Tamir and it is open to all young Israeli pianists. The Chair will be officially inaugurated with a special concert at the Jerusalem Theater on May 26 featuring 26 local pianists performing on five pianos. Michael Ajzenstadt

### Competition Winners

The overall winner of the Paul Ben-Haim Competition was 17-year-old violinist Gai Figar. Other winners were 17-year-old trumpet player Tamir Edut (brass youth), 21-year-old trumpet player Gregory Rivkin (brass adults) and 17-year-old cellist Ira Givoli (strings). Five other musicians received certificates of merit. Michael Ajzenstadt

SEE IT IN HEBREW- HEAR IT IN ENGLISH!

COMEDY OF ERRORS  
May 27 at 8:30 p.m.

The smash-hit production of Shakespeare's classic comedy, set amidst a modern, war-torn Middle Eastern city, with dazzling stage effects, which include drums, gunshots, torch lights and even belly dancing.

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## Where Welfare Stands

Nine months have gone by since the passage of the 1996 welfare reform law. Welfare rolls are plummeting across the country. Caseloads fell between 1993 and 1996 by 31 percent in Indiana, 30 percent in Wisconsin and 22 percent in Arizona. These are indeed startling numbers and the politicians, not surprisingly, are crowing. From President Clinton to Representative Clay Shaw of Florida, who led the House subcommittee that drafted the law, they are congratulating themselves and the reform act they supported.

Yet the 1996 law cannot claim responsibility for driving down welfare rolls. There simply has not been enough time for it to take effect. Its combination of sanctions, five-year time limits on welfare benefits and work requirements may someday reduce long-term dependency, but that day cannot arrive until states pass necessary laws and the five-year time limits come into play. The main forces driving down caseloads are a strong economy and the imaginative welfare-to-work programs devised by states well before the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994.

### Early Initiatives

The recent history of welfare programs belies the notion that the Federal system was dysfunctional before Congress stepped in last year, or that it prevented states from designing innovative responses. President Johnson's War on Poverty, for example, brought forth Medicaid, food stamps and a national standard for disability payments. The poverty program helped to reduce poverty rates by about a third between 1965 and 1973, from 17 percent in 1965 to 11 percent.

But when the economy later went sour, Congress did little to help the states with rising welfare caseloads. Several of them therefore took matters into their own hands, applying to Washington for permission to experiment with welfare-to-work programs. By today's standard, these programs were modest, devoted almost entirely to low-cost assistance like providing welfare recipients with help in finding a job. But studies by New York's Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation showed that some of them managed to cut caseloads by a few percentage points, raise employment and save a few taxpayer dollars.

### The 1988 Family Support Act

Alongside these positive findings came enlightening research by two future officials of the Clinton Administration, Mary Jo Bane and David Ellwood, who showed that the poverty population was split into two distinct groups that required different policy responses. Most recipients rotated on and off welfare in short bursts. A smaller group, with few job skills, made welfare a long-term life style.

This distinction provided the intellectual underpinning for the next big milestone in welfare policy, the 1988 Family Support Act. Sponsored by two New Yorkers, then-Representative Thomas Downey and Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the act declared as Federal policy that state welfare offices were responsible for placing recipients in jobs, not just writing checks. Able-bodied recipients, in return for government aid, would engage in the training and job-preparation activities that the research had shown to be effective. Following the lessons of the Bane-Ellwood studies, the act also called for education and training for long-term recipients.

Unfortunately, Congress did little to support the act's sound architecture, providing only \$1 billion, to be matched by the states, to pay for welfare-to-work programs. Yet the act performed a signal service. It told states to get on with the job of putting welfare enrollees to work, setting the

stage for a new round of ambitious local initiatives.

Vermont, for example, now provides subsidized private-sector jobs and pledges that all recipients who obey the rules will get help. Wisconsin plans to put nearly every applicant into a job slot, including government-provided workfare. Utah emphasizes intensive case management. Oregon subsidizes private employers who hire welfare recipients and provides post-hiring help so recipients can hold their jobs, a wise strategy for helping those who habitually drop in and out of the labor force. Minnesota imposes mandatory work requirements and provides strong incentives to make sure that work pays more than welfare.

Early data show reductions in caseloads and poverty, suggesting that states can nudge down welfare through the balanced use of work requirements and assistance. But it is far from clear whether these promising infant programs can be beefed up to address the needs of the welfare population in big cities.

### The New Law

In 1996, President Clinton and Congress decided that small, steady progress was not good enough. Rather than adding teeth to the 1988 act, they added fangs. The act chops away about \$50 billion by stripping some disabled children of cash assistance, legal immigrants of medical insurance and childless adults who cannot find work of food stamps — provisions that have nothing to do with creating work but everything to do with balancing the budget by cutting programs for the poor. The act also discarded a 60-year-old entitlement that required Washington to share the cost of the basic program for needy parents and substituted a fixed annual grant that does not vary with the size of the poverty rolls. Finally, Congress mandated time limits that prohibit any state from providing Federal cash aid to any family for more than five years.

The states thus face a whole new set of challenges to their ingenuity, not to mention their compassion. Before the 1996 act, states that imposed time limits were required to exempt families that hit that limit and, for no fault of their own, could not find work. The new law strips away this protection, inviting a cash-starved state to throw long-term unemployed adults into the abyss.

Some governors, like George Pataki of New York, say they will not abandon enrollees who obey welfare rules. But many other states are designing welfare programs that impose time limits with no commitment to help those who hit the barrier without work. Another danger is that the new law allows states to fulfill Federal requirements either by whittling caseloads through tighter eligibility rules or by placing recipients in jobs, as if the two options were equally good. Once again, the cash-starved states may be tempted to kick needy enrollees off welfare.

The challenge for the states is to use the flexibility they have under the new law to create a system that compels able-bodied recipients to work but stands ready to continue help for those who cannot find work for no fault of their own. It is also important that states carefully monitor families dropped from welfare rolls, and prepare to change their rules if innocent people are hurt.

No person has hit the new Federal time limit yet. Nor are states, in today's economy, stretched to meet their welfare needs. But someday the economy will slow, and, for the first time, there will be no additional flow of Federal dollars. Only then will the measure of the new welfare law be taken. Only then will the country discover what it means for Washington to rip the Federal safety net and pray that the states preserve theirs.

## Editorial Notebook

### Let Greece Have the Marbles

One of the oldest international cultural disputes has begun a new turn under Prime Minister Tony Blair's victorious Laborites. Scarcely a day after taking office, Britain's new Heritage Secretary, Chris Smith, informed a BBC interviewer that the Labor Government would not return the Elgin Marbles to their ancient and rightful home in Athens.

It is not sensible or feasible, Mr. Smith contends, to remove the Parthenon carvings from their special gallery in the British Museum. Since that venerable institution overflows with world-class art in its storerooms, such as the Silk Road treasures carried away by Sir Aurel Stein, the Secretary certainly cannot mean that the galleries would then be empty.

No, what he seems to be saying is that restitution would be inconvenient and that possession is 90 percent of the law, a robustly conservative or one might even say Thatcherite argument. Soon Mr. Smith will doubtless repeat points made by Britons for more than a century: that the Marbles were legally acquired at the time, that they would have been damaged if left in Greece and that their restitution would trigger a rash of claims since so many museum treasures were similarly uprooted in an imperial scramble for spoils. All the points are half-true.

Thomas Bruce, the seventh Earl of Elgin, was the British Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire when he received a murky permit from the Sultan to remove some of the famous sculptures from the Parthenon. It was granted in extraordinary circumstances since the Ottomans in 1799 were urgently seeking British help against Napoleon.

Crucially, however, nobody troubled to ask the

Greeks, then under Turkish dominion, about taking 17 figures from the Parthenon pediment, as well as 15 metopes, 36 slabs of friezes, a Caryatid column, 13 marble heads

and a miscellany of fragments. An appalled witness was Lord Byron, who wrote abundantly in protest, bearing down on Elgin's Scottish roots, as in "The Curse of Minerva":

*Daughter of Jove! In Britain's injured name,  
A true-born Briton may the deed disclaim.  
Frown not on England; England owns him not:  
Athena, not thy plunderer was a Scot.*

It is also half-true that the Elgin Marbles were safeguarded in London during Greece's various wars and more recently from stone-roting pollution and automotive fumes. Laudably, the Greeks years ago removed the remaining carvings and are now building a new Acropolis Museum. This is where the Elgin Marbles would be safely shown should Britain's Labor Government more generously reconsider.

But would not that open a very large barn door to litigation? Again, half a point, since there are no universal rules for these deeply felt disputes. The Parthenon and its missing friezes are part of Greece's birthright, a defining symbol of Athens and its democracy. Precisely such considerations led Denmark, after decades of arguments, to restore to Iceland in 1971 the codices containing ancient sagas. A state holiday and national rejoicing attended their return. Greek pride and joy would as surely light up the Aegean if ever those Parthenon fragments were allowed a voyage home.

KARL E. MEYER

## U.S. Hasn't Stopped Assaulting Other Cultures

To the Editor:

You suggest (Week in Review, May 11) that it has become harder to hold America responsible for assaults on cultures elsewhere in the world. Perhaps you should review recent news:

The United States wins a ruling in the World Trade Organization and forces Europe to accept American beef grown with hormones, although many European consumers are worried in the wake of mad cow disease. We hope the ruling will set a precedent for pushing other genetically engineered products on world markets despite local opposition.

With the support of the United States Embassy, a delegation of American investment bankers and mining executives arrives in Zaire to sign contracts with the rebel leader Laurent Kabila, although human

rights officials charge his forces with atrocities against refugees.

American tobacco companies expand in Asia, with the support of American diplomacy. We force Thailand to repeal smoking regulations.

We force countries to open their markets to American agricultural exports. While this benefits some consumers, it ruins an impoverished countryside, accelerates migration to overcrowded slums and destroys food self-sufficiency just when global climate disturbance should prompt caution.

Although we preach globalism, we don't hesitate to impose our foreign policy on reluctant allies and trading partners. We threaten foreign companies that deal with Cuba and prolong the embargo of food and medicine to Iraq long after the U.N. has approved shipments, so that we can

punish helpless civilians for their rulers.

You believe it is only local elites that oppose these policies, and that the rest of humanity welcomes them as a wave of democratic progress. In fact the elites from Lima to Bangalore are precisely our allies, eager to get on the Web, shop at Neiman Marcus and draw on our expertise in advertising, public relations and counterterrorism.

If we looked into the abyss, the true horror would be our own actions, not those of people who live often courageously in nearly impossible circumstances. Rather than make our ugliness universal, can we not share the essence of the American dream by ourselves learning finally to respect those who still believe in justice? DAVID KEPPEL  
Essex, Conn., May 13, 1997

## Women's Lib in Russia Isn't Just Cosmetic

To the Editor:

Re "Democracy in Russia: Women's Lib Is Just Cosmetic" (Week in Review, May 11): How tiresome to read another piece about Russian women decking themselves out in red lipstick, spangly dresses and high-heeled pumps, and babushki who wouldn't dream of wearing a leisure suit to take their grandchildren to the park. The implicit message is, why can't they be more like us, informal and casual?

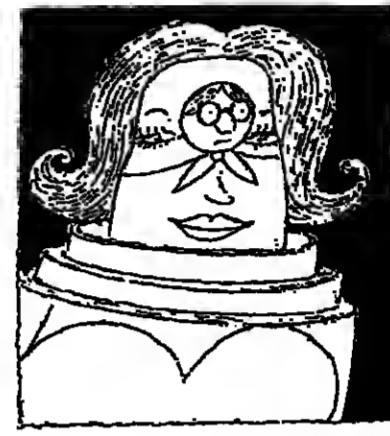
More important, you would think this is the whole of womanhood in Russia. Yet across my E-mail screen over the past months have come reports of women's initiatives: a project in preparation to analyze and monitor the programs of the World Bank in Russia; plans for a summer school in Samara to develop courses and teaching materials on women for university-level teachers; efforts to gain access to the Internet by women's groups in the Kola Peninsula — to name a few.

Russian women do more than "endure, complain and nurture" — though their enduring and nurturing functions are indeed remarkable.

COLETTE SRULMAN  
New York, May 14, 1997

To the Editor:

As a Russian woman, I was interested in the attempt by a foreigner to decipher the Russian enigma ("De-



Victoria Roberts

mocracy in Russia: Women's Lib Is Just Cosmetic," Week in Review, May 11). What you label a "duality within Russian women" is not a consequence of "70 years of Socialism" or "cramped communal apartments." Restraints and humbleness are simply considered decent behavior of young women in Russia.

It is true that women play too little role in government and have something to learn from foreign experience. But you should acknowledge that American women can learn from Russian women their ability to remain women. ANNA ASLUND  
Washington, May 13, 1997

## Military Can't Have It Both Ways in Flinn Case

To the Editor:

I am anything but a feminist, but I am appalled at the Air Force's treatment of First Lieut. Kelly Flinn ("From a Love Affair to a Court-Martial," front page, May 11).

For better or worse, this is an age in which people who like each other have sex as casually as they might meet for a cup of coffee. It is also an age in which marriages, if they fail, can be terminated with few legal impediments.

It appears that Lieutenant Flinn, a single woman, had what was for her a genuine love affair with a man who she believed offered her love and eventually marriage, an affair that did not affect her job performance. If it now turns out that he was two-timing her, it would seem she was

the one who was victimized.

If, as you report, her superior officer had the right to order her to end the relationship, there is something wrong with the military code. This is presumably the same code that allows military men on leave to go to the big town and pick up dates. The military can't have it both ways.

If Lieutenant Flinn had been a civilian, she would be free to deal with her ill-fated love affair in her own way. That she has chosen to serve her country as a bomber pilot should not subject her to the scrutiny of those whose rank entitles them to disapprove of her very private choices. WALTER H. STERN  
Roslyn Harbor, N.Y., May 11, 1997

## Power of Sexuality

To the Editor:

The case of First Lieut. Kelly Flinn (front page, May 15) not only exposes the old cultural double standard still enshrined in the military code of crime and punishment reminiscent of Hester Prynne in "The Scarlet Letter." It should remind us again that the power of sexuality should never be underestimated.

But this case also exposes a deeper dynamic. Heretofore the prohibition against women protected a merger of sexual and aggressive urges in the military's forces. Thus the energy for "fighting spirit" had been contained by both gender separation and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. No longer separated from the culture, the integrated military may have to face this alliance of forces that has driven its energy, behavior and even its goals in the past, and evaluate its usefulness. LALLA K. WOERNER  
Portsmouth, N.H., May 15, 1997

## Chinese Dissident Puts U.S. Policy to Shame

To the Editor:

Wei Jingsheng's call for democratic freedom in China (Arts pages, May 12) prompts serious questions about our China policy.

How does this courageous man have the moral strength to refuse to compromise his principles in return for freedom, while we continue to sacrifice American values for the sake of American investment? Would we not be wiser to formulate our foreign policy on the bedrock of the interests of all Americans, and realize that a basic tenet should be to encourage democracy throughout the world rather than mollify totalitarian regimes for financial gain?

The Times welcomes letters from readers. Letters must include the writer's name, address and telephone number. Those selected may be shortened for space reasons. Fax letters to (212) 556-3622 or send by electronic mail to letters@nytimes.com, or by regular mail to Letters to the Editor, The New York Times, 229 West 43d Street, New York, N.Y. 10036-3959.

Why is it possible for a solitary prisoner in the Chinese gulag to see this more clearly than the Government of the country whose prosperity is built upon the foundation of these personal freedoms and responsibilities? ALAN L. GLÉITSMAN  
Malibu, Calif., May 13, 1997

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## Let the Swiss Show Their Moral Sense

To the Editor:

Your May 14 editorial "Switzerland's Debts" continues your commentary on and coverage of Nazi gold and all the attendant horrors and perplexities. Nevertheless, if it were not for your ancillary finger-pointing at other less implicated countries, you might be said to run the risk of indulging in the same "Swiss smugness" that has become such a cliché.

But I hasten to defend your position. You are not generalizing about all the Swiss. Instead you rightly accuse and accuse the deserving targets. Still, I cannot help feeling that there is a fatal Swiss flaw there somewhere.

When visiting that country, I began to hear a few too many Swiss citizens telling me in their rough and fluting voices, "Gott hat uns gesegnet" ("God has blessed us") — and saying it in such a way as to wish to withhold that benediction from other peoples. I venture to say that that aggressive declaration is not at all the same as our smarmy appeal to the divinity, "God Bless America."

Let us now, as you advise, throw it up to the Swiss citizens themselves. And let us hope that they will approve the referendum next year and set up the \$4.7 billion foundation in order to right some of the incalculable wrong committed not only by the gnomes of Zurich. They must come to their moral senses as a nation. ARTHUR S. WENSINGER  
Middletown, Conn., May 15, 1997

The writer is *Tuft Professor of German and Humanities* professor emeritus at Wesleyan University.

## Real Kennedy Issues

To the Editor:

I hold no brief for the Kennedys and their notions of personal integrity and morality, but "Kennedys Behaving Badly" (Editorial Notebook, May 16) does a disservice.

Voters here in Massachusetts, and elsewhere, have long demonstrated apathy toward what used to be called scandalous behavior. What the news media owe us is discussion of Joseph Kennedy 2d's unremarkable record in the House and his lack of experience in state government.

The news media complain, rightly, about the lack of attention to issues. Honey Fitz and Toddlers are gone and Chappaquiddick, William Kennedy Smith and Joseph Kennedy's former wife and his brother should be left to the tabloids and People magazine. DAVID M. KOPKO  
Northampton, Mass., May 16, 1997

## Surfing Sickness, Too?

To the Editor:

I read with interest your May 14 Health page article on ice cream headaches, which seem to be caused by very cold foods like ice cream touching the back of the palate.

Two observations: (1) Making oneself cough seems to bring relief somewhat sooner; (2) as a surfer in the cold waters of northern California, I can attest that in the winter, with water temperature around 50 degrees, duck-diving a wave or being held under by large winter waves will cause a very distinct ice cream headache. This effect seems to have little to do with the palate. I trust that surfing abstinence is not indicated. BRIAN L. MARK  
San Francisco, May 15, 1997

## N.J. School Priorities

To the Editor:

The New Jersey Supreme Court has found state school financing to be in violation of the State Constitution (front page, May 15). Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, commenting on the finding, did not first assure the citizens of her state, particularly those in the poor districts, that her administration would strive to remedy disadvantage. Instead the advantaged districts were assured that they would not suffer loss of their advantages.

Do New Jerseyans restrict their pride to the quality of education in their own districts, not its quality in their state and country? Might they instead welcome an affirmation more positive than that offered by the Governor? C. F. REED  
Radnor, Pa., May 15, 1997

FRANK RICH

Computer Bites Man

In the end it didn't make any difference whether Deep Blue beat Garry Kasparov at chess or not...

All true, and all beside the point. The desperate propping up of humanity that followed L.B.M.'s stock-stocking publicity stunt is a backhand testament to just how much ground man is losing to computer...

Such computer-driven changes in our culture, good and bad, big and small, are happening faster than we can calculate them, brought about not by 1.4-ton sidestock freaks like Deep Blue but by the ubiquitous P.C.'s at home, work and school...

Chess is the least of its victories.

(faster connections, TV-quality video) to remake the entire information industry, from network news to movie rentals.

David Shenk, whose new book "Data Smog" is an indispensable guide to the big picture of technology's cultural impact, says that the press overcovered Deep Blue, "a story that doesn't affect mankind," because it "can be encapsulated into a man vs. machine drama."

"Data Smog" reports on some of the more negative changes, starting with a computer's ability to isolate its user and increase stress by glutting the brain with data and images.

Old media often miss the computer's cultural impact because we see stories in, well, linear terms, as morality plays with clear plots. As Deep Blue was overcovered, so are the size of Bill Gates' house and fortune, and the spread of Web pornography (and the doomed legal efforts to censor it) and the technological travails of America Online (another man-bests-computer fable).

Among the important non-linear stories being missed is the coming impact of the computer on politics — a story that has nothing to do with politicians' much-documented Web sites. As Mr. Shenk points out, cyberspace (and its corporate culture) is intrinsically libertarian Republican, a model of "highly decentralized, deregulated society."

We can address such questions faster if we recognize that the battle between man and computer is over, and the computer has won. Our task now is not to deny that victory — or stomp off childishly in defeat like Mr. Kasparov — but to seize the countless creative opportunities before us to bend the machine's power to our own ends as we negotiate the most humane truce possible.

Essay

WILLIAM SAFIRE

Abortion Opportunity

ERIE, Pa.

A stunning breakthrough took place last week in America's generation-long abortion debate. The center suddenly became very much wider and genuine compromise is possible.

No matter how often or rarely doctors perform partial-birth abortion, most Americans want it outlawed. The moment one foot enters the world, a baby being born in the U.S. should have an inalienable right to life and to all the protections of every human being under our Constitution.

But Pennsylvania Republican Rick Santorum's bill does not concern itself with the health of the mother. Abortion rights advocates say they fear that such an omission is the first step down the slippery slope toward a reversal of Roe v. Wade.

To deal with that suspicion held by pro-choicers, Democratic leader Tom Daschle sought to head off the bill outlawing the abortion procedure with an unexpected alternative.

He proposed to ban all abortions, regardless of procedure, after doctors determine the fetus is capable of life — about halfway through pregnancy. That, including a stringent health exception, went beyond anything a pro-choice leader had proposed.

"It shall be unlawful to abort a viable fetus," went Daschle's bill, "unless the physician certifies that continuation of the pregnancy would threaten the mother's life or risk grievous injury to her physical health."

That's not just any injury, but a "grievous" one, which his bill goes on to specify. And the word "physical" rules out "mental," a reason sometimes abused to justify later-term abortion.

Anti-abortion activists too quickly denounced the Daschle bill as a "sham." Most Republicans chimed in, arguing it was designed only to give cover to those pro-choice senators made uneasy by public revisionist the partial-birth procedure. Right-lifers were further turned off when President Clinton — coming a long way back from his extreme position — said he supported Daschle's bill.

When centrists like me point to the tough language in Daschle's health exception — "risk grievous injury" — Senator Santorum counters by noting, "a risk" is a huge loophole. A 1 percent risk? Because a doctor could always certify some risk in a pregnancy, the language in Daschle's bill would still allow the performer of an abortion to justify it easily — in Santorum's harsh metaphor, "letting

the executioner be judge and jury." The compromise is obvious: by modifying "risk" with "seriously" or "substantially," lawmakers could pose a real threat of prosecution to any doctor who sought to circumvent the unmistakable intent of the law.

But Republicans, sensing victory, refused to take yes for an answer and voted down the leapfrogging Democratic alternative. This week, they plan to pass the much narrower Santorum bill, which even Daschle may vote for; but Clinton's subsequent veto will probably be sustained. Result: no

Not all slopes are slippery.

progress, rising resentment. Some Republicans think they can beat Democrats with partial-birth horrors in the '98 elections.

That would be bad for the country as well as politically obtuse. As long as abortion is a burning issue, the G.O.P. will lose most women voters, no matter what specific procedure is condemned as infanticide. Only when an abortion consensus is struck can Republicans close the gender-gap.

That is not to disparage the sincerity of abortion-haters: "There may be a medical need to terminate a pregnancy," Santorum tells me, "but there is never a need to kill the baby." But if the promised veto holds, will he work toward some alternative this year? "I won't walk away from the table."

Daschle, for his part, is open to suggestions about his fresh start. "It's not so bad that both sides came out in opposition," he says, seeing the center enlarging. "And some people won't ever feel comfortable with a health exception. But we have to work within the confines of the Court decisions."

Most Americans agree that the rights of the individual woman come first until the potential child she carries becomes viable — capable of life on its own. When pro-lifers exploited the shock of one kind of abortion, moderate pro-choicers reacted creatively with a change of position that now reflects the majority view.

Not all slopes are slippery. Daschle's proposal is no sham. Congress and the President should turn into law the consensus the people have reached.



James Victor

A Time to Open Up the C.I.A.

By John M. Deutch

The editor of The San Jose Mercury News writes that his newspaper's reporting last year of a link between the C.I.A. and the introduction of crack cocaine into Los Angeles in the 1980's was flawed. This admission has elicited pious editorial commentary about the courage of The Mercury News in acknowledging error while reaffirming the value of investigative reporting of alleged governmental misconduct.

I was not impressed with the original Mercury News series when it appeared while I was the C.I.A.'s Director because of the absence of any evidence to support the allegation of C.I.A. involvement. I am now not impressed by the editorial admission of The Mercury News or the accompanying editorial comment.

The story has been transformed by the establishment press from one about C.I.A. involvement in drug trafficking to one about journalistic performance, thus missing the point. Anyone who observed the reaction to the allegation, which I called "an appalling charge" at the time, knows that the significance of the episode is the credibility that the inflammatory and inadequately substantiated alle-

John M. Deutch, the former Director of Central Intelligence, is a professor of chemistry at M.I.T.

gation had among many African-Americans, especially in South-Central Los Angeles.

Perhaps it should not be surprising that the black community can believe the C.I.A. helped introduce crack when it has been known since 1972 that the Government sanctioned the

Let's finish the inquiry on drugs.

Tuskegee syphilis experiments on black men. I know from the public meeting I attended in Watts, hosted by Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald, that there is a tremendous anger against the government's impotence to stop the spread of drugs, a desperation to find someone to blame for the devastation caused by drugs, and a distrust of all agencies — the C.I.A., F.B.I., D.E.A. and L.A.P.D. — involved in the drug war.

The C.I.A. has been combating drugs for many years. The agency's work contributed to the arrest of almost all the Cali drug lords over the past two years and to greater control of heroin trafficking in the Far East. I know of no evidence that the C.I.A. has ever directed or knowingly condoned drug smuggling into the United States. But the public, as well as the dedicated C.I.A. intelligence analysts and clandestine intelligence operations of-

ficers who frequently run personal risks in fighting drugs, deserve to have the allegations put fully to rest.

The thorough and independent investigations under way at the C.I.A. and at the Congressional Intelligence oversight committees must continue. I predict these investigations will not uncover a C.I.A. conspiracy to raise money for the Nicaraguan contras by selling drugs to Americans. That is a calumny. If the investigations uncover misconduct by individual C.I.A. operations personnel, those responsible should be held accountable.

It is important that the results of these investigations be unclassified and available for scrutiny by the interested public. Often the intelligence community must be silent to protect the sources and methods involved in its operations. But sometimes the issue warrants and circumstances permit openness by the C.I.A. Here is such a case.

The C.I.A. is much needed to fight terrorism, counter weapons proliferation and serve as our country's first line of defense. It cannot do so without public support. It is not reasonable to expect that all suspicious about the C.I.A.'s role in drugs or in Central America in the 1980's will be put to rest by a full and open investigation. But such a process will change some minds and improve public confidence. The more the public can know about what the C.I.A. does to fight drugs the better. The true story is a good story, not a bad story.

Spy and Counterspy

By George F. Kennan

It is my conviction, based on some 70 years of experience, first as a Government official and then in the past 45 years as a historian, that the need by our government for secret intelligence about affairs elsewhere in the world has been vastly overrated. I would say that something upward of 95 percent of what we need to know could be very well obtained by the careful and competent study of perfectly legitimate sources of information open and available to us in the rich library and archival holdings of this country. Much of the remainder, if it could not be found here (and there is very little of it that could not), could easily be nonsecretively elicited from similar sources abroad.

In Russia, in Stalin's time and partly thereafter, the almost psychotic preoccupation of the Communist regime with secrecy appeared to many, not unreasonably, to place a special premium on efforts to penetrate that curtain by secretive methods of our own. This led, of course, to the creation here of a vast bureaucracy dedicated to this particular purpose; and this latter, after the fashion of all great bureaucratic structures, has endured to this day long after most of the reasons for it have disappeared.

Even in the Soviet time, much of it was superfluous. A lot of what we went to such elaborate and dangerous means to obtain secretly would have been here for the having, given the requisite quiet and scholarly analysis of what already lay before us.

The attempt to elicit information by secret means has another very serious negative effect that is seldom noted. The development of clandestine sources in another country involves, of course, the placing and the exploitation of secret agents in that country. This naturally inclines the mounting of a substantial effort of counterintelligence on the part of the respective country's government. This, in turn, causes us to respond with an equally vigorous effort of counterintelligence in order to maintain the integrity of our espionage effort.

This competition in counterintelligence efforts tends to grow into dimensions that wholly overshadow the original effort of positive intelligence procurement that gave rise to it in the first place. It takes on aspects which cause it to be viewed as a game, played in its own rights. Unfortunately,

Secret intelligence is overrated.

ly, it is a game requiring such lurid and dramatic character that it dominates the attention both of those who practice it and of those in the press who exploit it. Such is the fascination it exerts that it tends wholly to obscure, even for the general public, the original reasons for it.

It would be interesting to know what proportion of the energies and expenses and bureaucratic involvement of the C.I.A. is addressed to this consuming competition, and whether one ever stacks this up against the value of its almost forgotten original purposes. Do people ever reflect, one wonders, that the best way to protect against the penetration of one's secrets by others is to have the minimum of secrets to conceal?

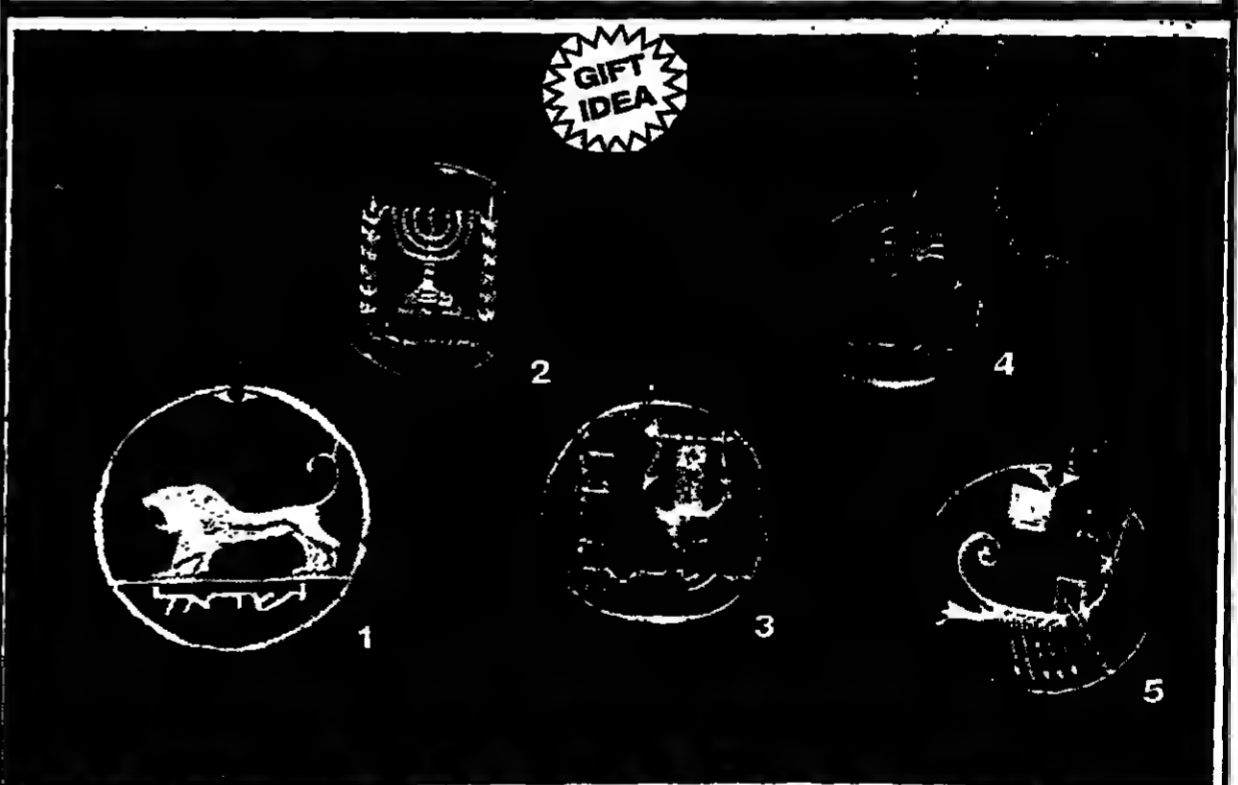
One more point. At the bottom of the whole great effort of secret military intelligence, which has played so nefarious a part in the entire history of great-power relationships in this passing century, there has usually lain the assumption by each party that if it did not engage to the limit in that exercise, the other party, working in secret, might develop a weapon so devastating that it could confront all others with the demand that they submit to its will "or else."

But this sort of anxiety is now greatly outdated. The nuclear competition has taught us that the more terrible the weapons available, the more suicidal becomes any conceivable actual use of them. With the recognition of the implications of this simple fact would go a large part of the motivation for our frantic efforts of secret intelligence. In this respect, too, this is really a new age. It is time we recognized it and drew the inescapable conclusions.

There may still be areas, very small areas really, in which there is a real need to penetrate someone else's curtain of secrecy. All right — but then please, without the erection of false pretenses and elaborate efforts to deceive — and without, to the extent possible — the attempt to maintain "spies" on the adversary's territory. We easily become, ourselves, the sufferers from these methods of deception. For they inculcate in their authors, as well as their intended victims, unwhimpered cynicism, causing them to lose all realistic understanding of the interrelationship, in what they are doing, of ends and means.

George F. Kennan is professor emeritus of historical studies at the Institute for Advanced Study.

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THE ARTS

Conformity Rules Japan, but Misfit Artists Thrive

By NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

SITTING glumly in a coffee bar, sipping a cafe au lait, Yu Mi Ri does her best to come across as a complete failure in life...

Yet one thing Miss Yu can do is write, and her powerful novels, plays and autobiography have won her prizes and acclaim in Japan.

"I've always felt uncomfortable in my place, and I keep trying to run away from it," frets Miss Yu.

Miss Yu is the kind of person one would not expect to succeed in Japan's regimented society...

Yet this melding of social misfit and creative genius is not unusual in Japan. In a country that sometimes complains about a national lack of creativity...



Architect Tadao Ando

To be sure, mainstream Japan is one of the most cultured societies in the world.

But mainstream Japan is often more earnest about its culture than inspired, and the notion that Japan excels only at copying and refining the ideas of others is at least as prevalent here as in the West...

This stereotype, however, may be as wrong as it is widespread. Creativity thrives even in a highly disciplined society like Japan's...

Television commercials are often brilliantly funny masterpieces. Fashion, pop music and comedy, video games, even the ubiquitous comic books known as manga...

A Japanese saying reminds people that "the oar that sticks out gets hammered down."

How these three misfits came to their success and how they view the society underscores how creativity is sometimes stifled by the regimentation of modern Japan...

"As a Korean-Japanese, I'm neither Korean nor Japanese," Miss Yu mused in the coffee shop...

about my identity since childhood. It made me uncomfortable, but it also stimulated my writing."

As a child Miss Yu was so confused about languages — when to use Japanese, when to use Korean — that she stuttered.

Koreans in Japan are still often deeply alienated, in part because of their own nationalism, in part because of discrimination.

Miss Yu's nine plays are all about suicide, and her novels are principally about troubled young people dealing with family problems.

The autobiography recalls her family's breakup. She describes how her father stole, gambled obsessively, attacked her mother and beat her brother unconscious.

"I was bullied ever since kindergarten," she writes. "I think many elements were intertwined, but somehow I was extraordinarily awkward with a group."

Girls continued to hully Miss Yu, even stripping her for their amusement. She skipped classes and felt ashamed of her parents.

She began to work as an actress, however, and finally found success. With her good looks — her expressive face is so like Meryl Streep's...

Miss Yu's books, as well written as they are bleak, quickly won a broad audience as well as critical praise.

It is precisely because of her grim childhood that she has thrived as a writer, Miss Yu said.

In Japan, creativity can best be found on the fringes, where the artist-as-outcast flourishes.

"An author can miss having good luck but should never lack misfortune," she said with a grin.

A natural question, of course, is whether as a literary star she will now develop writer's block.

"I still have this instinct to run away. Langston Hughes — I like his poems — he had a poem about wanting to go off and ride a train. I like that idea."

Tadao Ando was stumped. He slumped back in his chair and looked at the ceiling, searching his memory.

Mr. Ando, 53, stands out in his field



Yu Mi Ri, a Korean living in Japan, writes about alienation.

— he is regarded as one of the most ingenious architects in the world, let alone Japan — but he also stands out in his homeland.

Mr. Ando was brought up in Osaka, where he still lives, by his grandmother while his parents reared his twin brother.

Mr. Ando, a man of medium build, does not look much like a boxer. And he is hardly the image of a typical Japanese businessman...

"In the boxing ring, no one will help you," he said. "So many talented and brilliant people get into Tokyo University..."

Mr. Ando's boxing career wasn't taking him anywhere, so he settled down and apprenticed himself to a carpenter.

Mr. Ando won renown after he was hired to build a home — now famous as the "rowhouse in Sumiyoshi" — in a tiny space in a typical Osaka neighborhood.

Mr. Ando went on to build a series of evocative buildings, including the concrete Church of the Light chapel in Osaka and a Buddhist temple nestled underneath a pond full of lotus plants.

Mr. Ando is not just a Western architect who happens to live in Japan, any more than Miss Yu is a Western writer in Tokyo.

Yet for all his triumphs — and he is praised as much in Japan as abroad — Mr. Ando still comes across as an outsider.

In one sense he is flatly wrong. Japanese society may be unusually regimented and disciplined ("Japanese are like minnows, darting back and forth, always together," he scoffed).

Mr. Ando, 53, stands out in his field sense, however, he is right: like Miss Yu, he has won honors from a mainstream society that he does not seem part of.

I need people with architecture training," Mr. Ando reflected. "But the next most important thing is to get a free spirit. I have some Tokyo University graduates working for me, but it often takes them several years to recover."

Beat Takeshi is deeply disappointed in his son. When the boy recently announced that he intended to drop out of high school, Mr. Takeshi enthusiastically endorsed the idea and suggested that he do something off-beat — like become a yakuza gangster.

"In the end he said he'd stay in school," Mr. Takeshi said with a sigh as he sat on the tatami-mat floor of a room in his studio.

Mr. Takeshi, a lean, nervous-looking man of 49, is Japan's leading television personality and dominant comedian as well as an award-winning movie actor.

He is best known in Japan for producing several comedy variety shows a week, usually as silly as they are popular.

Mr. Takeshi's latest movie, "Kids Return," is a sympathetic portrayal of two high school hoodlums who skip class, extort pocket money from their classmates and generally represent the antithesis of every value cherished by Japanese society.

"Today's kids just don't know freedom," Mr. Ando said, noting that their after-school hours were full of music classes, clubs and cram schools.

One paradox of Mr. Ando's success is that his architecture office now attracts applications from legions of young people who are the opposite of the young Ando: brilliant graduates from Japan's most prestigious educational institution, Tokyo University.

"In running an architecture office, black humor that uses taboo words,

— not so much dirty language, for Japanese pretty much lacks obscenity and profanity, as expressions that breach social etiquette.

His rebelliousness, Mr. Takeshi said, dates from school days when his mother forbade him from playing with the bad kids.

"Those who are called the elite in Japan come straight up to Tokyo University, and it's as if they've just used a manual to study for the examinations all the way along."

"When I hire assistants, I often get applications from these so-called elites," he continued. "But they're useless to me."

"The exam-taking process takes so much time in childhood that there is no time for anything else," he said. "When you're young, you have to choose whether you want to be an elite or whether you want to be creative."

Many middle-aged and elderly Japanese say that young people these days are different (it is usually a complaint): less disciplined and less conformist.

School uniforms are hard-pressed in the 90's, when high school girls are hemming their skirts higher and boys are growing their hair longer.

It is not exactly individualist — for young people seem to be rebelling in exactly the same way as absolutely everyone else.

"Young people these days may look like they're rebelling a bit," he said, "but those are just the failures. This is a society where seriousness reigns, and they were left behind at the start of the race. So I really hate young people, I think they're fools."

IN HONOR OF 80-ACROSS

BY FRANCES HANSEN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS 1 Like some appliances 5 Cremona name 10 Spite 16 Halloween get-up 19 Inveigh (against) 20 Actor Alain 21 50's-70's Dodgers manager Walt 22 Slip 23 1936 film 26 Where Maracaña Stadium is 27 "La Navarraise" heroine 28 Wheezy chest sounds 29 Nursery rhyme character who "fell fast asleep" 31 Daiquiri flavor 33 Clock (self-winding timepiece) 34 Fiasco 35 Emergency supply 36 Of the upper hipbone 37 Started eating 38 City on the North Platte 40 "It Happened One Night" star 42 Printemps month 45 Prayer word 46 Waiting area for the Robert E. Lee 48 One of a Latin trio 49 Ursula Andress's birthplace 50 Get better, so to speak 52 "Meet John Doe" star 56 P. C. Wren's Beau 57 Rank below abbot 59 Kind of space 60 Name in Keats's "Ode to Chapman's Homer" 61 S-Z, e.g. 62 Some poker payments 63 Fainance 64 Home for Heidi 66 Blow part 67 Abel, for one 70 Put an edge on 71 "You Can't Take It With You" star 73 1958 Pulitzer author 74 British royal, informally 75 Former Eur. airline 76 Alternative to Corinthian 78 Inexperienced 79 Ref's decision 80 Born May 18, 1897, he directed all the films named in this puzzle 84 Wheelie 86 60's series set in post-Civil War 88 Appropriate Abbr. 89 Spread out 90 St. —, first American links locale

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and some filled-in letters.

- 92 Pakistan's chief river 93 Oculisques serve them 95 Contradicts 96 Respected one 97 Barbecue offering 98 One of Princess Yasmin's names 99 1946 film 105 Private eye 106 Tennis doubles player 107 Utters 108 Like some votes 109 St. Agnes's — (January 20) 110 Salad start 111 Ballet — 112 Like a 103-Down, maybe

- 15 Make heroic 16 1951 film 17 Posthumous Plath book 18 Fumble 24 Nail polish 25 Island next to Leyte 30 You can stand this! 31 Oregonian leader 32 1944 film 33 Part of a tennis court 34 Except 35 Rascat 36 Their work goes down the tubes 37 Hall-of— 38 Shopping street in London's West End 41 Shows surprise 43 Puccio's "Vissi d'arte" 44 Doo Juan's mother 47 Like Asia's reaches 49 Woman's wide lace collar 51 Pianist-actor Wilson 53 "Over There" composer 54 Louise de la Ramée's pen name 55 The Water Rat's friend 56 Sticky stuff 58 Reconsidered 60 Father 62 Typewriter sound 63 Snub, in a way 64 Chin 65 It means "Out of my way!"

- 66 Game of chance 67 Young hog 68 Dominions 69 Hero of 1898 71 Steinbeck family 72 Early weather satellite 75 Plymouth Colony leader 77 Character actor J. — Naish 80 Emancipation 81 Western backdrops 82 Caller on Miss Mullens, in Longfellow 83 Sack 85 Guy in the street 87 TV actress Meyers 90 Moderate 91 Beersheba's locale 92 Grant Wood, notably 93 Knife handles 94 Wrong 96 Title for Kiri Te Kanawa 97 Rap duo — Kross 100 Bernadette, e.g. Abbr. 101 Sh-foot runner? 102 George's brother 103 Certain letter 104 Nevada county seat

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE grid with words filled in.

# Twist of fate

Prof. Saul Friedlander, whose parents were handed over to the Nazis by the Swiss, has just been appointed to a commission to evaluate Switzerland's role during World War II, Tom Tugend writes from Los Angeles



There lurks an almost unbearable irony in the appointment of Prof. Saul Friedlander to an international commission of nine eminent historians to probe, evaluate and ultimately judge Switzerland's role and conduct during World War II and the Holocaust era.

Nearly 55 years ago, on September 29, 1942, Friedlander's Czech-born parents tried to cross into Switzerland from Vichy France. They were intercepted by Swiss border guards, who turned Jan and Elli Friedlander back and handed them over to the French police. The French passed the couple over to the Germans, who shipped them to Auschwitz, where both perished.

Just before the Friedlanders embarked on their ill-fated attempt, they managed to find a hiding place for their 10-year-old son in a French monastery, where he was raised as a Catholic.

Out of the group of 12 Jews who participated with the Friedlanders in the attempted border crossing, the Swiss admitted those with children, but refused entry to the others. If young Saul had accompanied his parents, the family would have been saved.

"It shows how implacably horrendous the whole situation was," says Friedlander, sitting in his sunny office on the campus of the University of California, Los Angeles. "What you thought was the best, turned out to be the worst."

The horrors of the past flooded

back to Friedlander's mind with particular force when he received a phone call last December from Switzerland's special envoy, Ambassador Thomas Borner, asking him to serve on the Independent Commission of Experts. The commission, Friedlander was assured, would have complete access to all of Switzerland's documents on foreign policy, economic and financial dealings, and treatment

Berger, a professor at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. Friedlander based his acceptance on three main considerations. "The Swiss knew what had happened to my parents, that I had written about Switzerland's role in the war, and that I was an Israeli citizen," says Friedlander. "Given all that, I took the Swiss offer as a sign that their intentions were real-

Washington. Even in this distinguished company, Friedlander is perhaps uniquely qualified for the job at hand. Acknowledged as one of the world's top-ranking Holocaust scholars, he is a past or present history professor at universities in Israel, Switzerland, France and the US. He has written nine widely translated books in his field, including *When Memory Comes*, a moving account of his boyhood in his native Prague and as a hidden child in France.

Also, just published by Harper Collins is the first volume of his *Nazi Germany and the Jews*, covering the period 1933-1939. This highly readable book, already translated into French, German and Hebrew, has won early acceptance as the new standard on the subject.

TWO MONTHS ago, Friedlander attended the first plenary session of the Commission of Experts in Bern, and came away with the sense that "our work will be done thoroughly and totally ... nothing will be hidden." Given the mountains of hitherto secret documents and statistics and the international ramifications of Switzerland's wartime role, the job facing the commission can be fairly described as monumental.

"I expect the commission's work to take five to six years," says Friedlander. Some 30 to 40 researchers have already been hired, who in the months and years ahead will comb archives, not only

in Switzerland, but in Germany, Russia, the US and Israel.

To cite but one upcoming project, the commission will probe the records of a Swiss government agency that monitored the flow of gold into and out of Switzerland during World War II, on a daily basis. These records are expected to yield information on the precise amount of Nazi gold looted from occupied countries and Holocaust victims, channeled into Swiss banks, and largely retained there.

Based on both his personal and scholarly background, Friedlander plans to pay special attention to Switzerland's wartime policy regarding Jewish refugees seeking asylum.

The commission will issue interim reports on its findings. It is also expected that as the investigations deepen and widen, they will shed new light on the assistance given to the Nazi regime and war machine by such "neutral" nations as Sweden, Portugal, Spain and Argentina.

Such future research will give further impetus to a historical phenomenon: That as the Nazi era and the Holocaust recede in time, the world's attention is not slackening but increasing.

"With the passage of time, we are slowly grasping the vastness of the amplitude and ramifications of the Hitler period," says Friedlander.

Another remarkable historical aspect of the commission's work is the fact that, apparently for the first time, an independent nation is asking an international body to probe its past behavior, albeit under intense American and global pressure. "Germany opened its records, but only as a defeated nation under Allied control," says Friedlander.

"America investigated the Pearl Harbor disaster, but that was done by the US Congress. Switzerland, to my knowledge, is the first sovereign country to agree to such an international investigation."

The crucial spotlight on the hitherto "exemplary" Swiss nation has resulted in "a major crisis in self-perception ... and a terrible internal debate" among the Swiss, says Friedlander.

Friedlander earned his doctoral degree at Switzerland's University of Geneva and currently splits the academic year between two positions.

He is professor of history at UCLA, where he holds the "1939 Club" Chair in the History of the Holocaust. In Israel, he is professor of modern European history at Tel Aviv University, where he is also director of the Ben-Zion Institute for the Study of Historical Consciousness and editor of the journal *History & Memory*. Friedlander and his wife live in Jerusalem.

## Home Front



### Maternis urbanitis

By Allison Kaplan Sommer

Somewhat, the white picket fence fantasy escaped me. An independent feminist little girl, I never really waited impatiently for the day when I would marry a handsome prince, move into his castle and raise his children.

Sure I played with dolls, but my Barbies spent their days leading corporate board meetings, redecorating their high-rise apartments, and attending cocktail parties. (and sometimes, I'm ashamed to admit, compromising their virtue with my brother's G.I. Joes.)

In my adolescence, my idealized future revolved around a Manhattan penthouse, Pulitzer Prizes, and a glamorous social life. Living in the country with a husband and kids were not part of my imagined lifestyle.

Families weren't hip or trendy. Suburbia and a station wagon? Forget it.

But, like others before me, after I did Manhattan (minus the penthouse) single (unglamorously) and career (minus the Pulitzer Prize...so far) I've finally ended up married, with a baby, and thousands of miles from New York City. All that remains of the self-image of my youth is the fact that I am a city animal. A scientist might term me *maternis urbanitis*, an urban mom.

We're a tough breed. Though much is made of how child-friendly Israel is, you'd never guess it spending a day with young children in Tel Aviv.

Because most buildings are tall, old and lacking elevators, I've developed hefty biceps lugging carriages and babies up and down three flights of stairs. I know how to expertly pop my stroller up and down high curbs, because curb cuts to accommodate mothers were apparently too far beyond the abilities of our city planners.

I've negotiated my stroller in heavy traffic, been forced off of the sidewalks by those who view them as their private parking lot and construction crews who see no problem blocking the entire pedestrian pathway.

I've schlepped carseats and strollers into a taxi as the impatient drivers sit there offering not a shred of help. And the little old ladies still push in front of me in the supermarket and bank teller line, they just smile and coo to the baby while they are doing it.

But perhaps the hardest part about being Mommy in the city is feeling like you don't belong.

In the 'burbs, having babies puts you in the mainstream. Raising your family is what it's all about.

In the city, the first time you drag your new infant outdoors, after having achieved a sum total of four hours sleep, you have to confront a world that is

well-rested, good-looking, and fast-paced. As you stagger by the bars and coffee shops with your baby carriage in front of you and your extra baby weight behind you, you feel like a creature from another planet as you pass the inevitable gaggle of 20-somethings in full navel-bearing regalia, the young lovers flirting intimately on a date, the two slick-looking yuppies performing a business transaction.

The really weird part is that you know that until very recently you resembled these people, and your life resembled theirs. Then you became a lumpy, tired Mom. Kind of like a caterpillar's transformation into a but-

Perhaps the hardest thing about being Mommy in the city is feeling like you don't belong.

terfly, except in reverse.

Mind you, there are rare admirable creatures who manage to straddle their maternal and their cutting-edge identities, who don't let themselves look like a mother just because that's what they are.

Take a walk down Sheinkin Street and you see them, sporting a neon orange crew cut, a leather jacket and thigh-high boots - cutting deals on their cellular phone with one hand while pushing a carriage with the other (what I don't admire about them is the cigarette with ash dangling precariously over their child's head, but that's another story...).

That's fine with a baby. But I doubt that either these women - nor I - will have the wherewithal to follow through and actually raise a child downtown. It's one thing to look cool pushing a stroller in the city, but once a kid gets mobile, running after him screaming "Don't put that dirty thing in your mouth!" seems less than the height of nonchalant chic.

So even I, the great urban holdout, have begun to eye the real estate section searching for the perfect idyllic setting in the country - hopefully a place where I can afford a house with many rooms, a spot in which to park a family-size car - maybe even a station wagon, and a backyard for my kid to run around in.

Surrounded, I suppose, by a white picket fence.

**Friedlander is perhaps uniquely qualified for the job at hand. Acknowledged as one of the world's top-ranking Holocaust scholars, he is a past or present history professor at universities in Israel, Switzerland, France and the US.**

of refugees during the Nazi era, as well as the wartime archives of the international Red Cross.

Facing withering accusations of aid to Nazi Germany and refusal by Swiss banks to pay out accounts established by Holocaust victims, Switzerland was anxious to announce the formation of the commission as quickly as possible. Friedlander was given two hours to decide whether to serve on the panel of historians known as the Berger Commission, named after the chairman, Jean-François

ly serious. "As a Jew, as a human being and as a historian, I felt a deep commitment to make sure that the task would be carried through seriously." Friedlander was also reassured by the reputations of his fellow commission members - five Swiss, one American, one Briton and one Pole - all of whom he knows as scholars of high standing and integrity.

The American is Dr. Sybil Milton, until recently chief historian at the US Holocaust Museum in

Washington. Even in this distinguished company, Friedlander is perhaps uniquely qualified for the job at hand. Acknowledged as one of the world's top-ranking Holocaust scholars, he is a past or present history professor at universities in Israel, Switzerland, France and the US. He has written nine widely translated books in his field, including *When Memory Comes*, a moving account of his boyhood in his native Prague and as a hidden child in France.

"I expect the commission's work to take five to six years," says Friedlander. Some 30 to 40 researchers have already been hired, who in the months and years ahead will comb archives, not only

## EARTHLY CONCERNS

### Better the turtle you grow ...

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

In an effort to save the world's vanishing turtles from extinction, a new form of aquaculture is becoming a popular activity in a number of places. Whenever one thinks of endangered species, one automatically thinks of rhinos and tigers or perhaps some remarkable bird. But one of the most endangered groups in the world today is the sea turtle.

There are several dozen species and almost all are in immediate danger. Turtle carapaces have been in demand for centuries as a material for making ornamental objects and, at one time, it was almost the only material suitable for lightweight combs, hairpins and countless other useful items. But today, plastics can replace them, and some even resemble real turtle shell.

But the capture and killing of vast numbers continues, partly because real shell now has a certain snob appeal and partly because there are communities in the Far East where the making of objects from turtle shell is the single occupation of the entire community and has been so for centuries. In these communities, hundreds of thousands of cigarette lighters, key-chain ornaments, ornamental boxes and hair ornaments are carved every year.

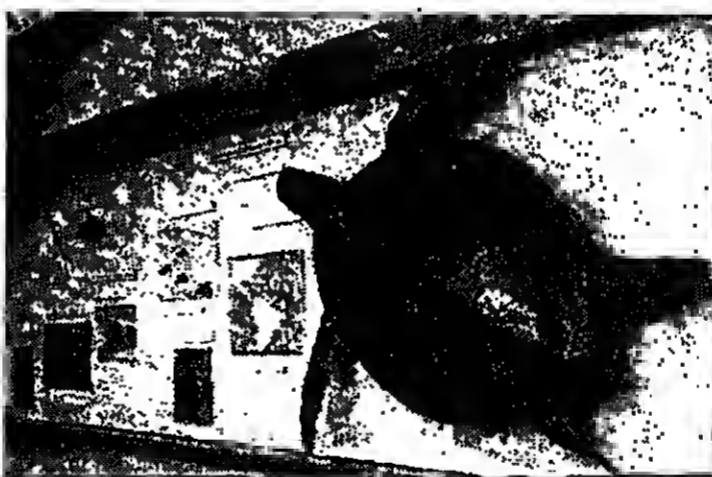
But it isn't only the trade in ornaments that threaten these sea creatures, but also some of the beliefs popular in many Far Eastern countries, especially in China. Turtle blood is used as a remedy for dozens of complaints ranging from insomnia to difficult childbirth, while turtle meat is said to be an almost absolute guarantee of longevity. Turtle eggs, harvested by the thousands from the

shores of islands along the Pacific Rim, are highly prized as an aphrodisiac for men and an aid to the conception of male offspring for women. (And with China's stringent regulations limiting the number of children one may produce, and with the great desire for a male heir, almost every married woman is a candidate for turtle-egg consumption.) In addition, sea turtles are still the required ingredient for gourmet turtle soup and other turtle-meat dishes.

The situation is becoming so serious that more and more countries are enacting laws to protect sea turtles. Fines for illegal hunting are usually high but the trade is so lucrative that many find poaching to be worth the risk. To combat this, a number of countries including Thailand, Malaysia, Taiwan and now, the southern United States, are turning to projects designed to produce turtles in captivity. They hope that this will provide enough shell, meat, blood and eggs to meet the demand and save the remaining wild turtles.

Although the projects are still in the experimental stage, the Taiwanese report some dramatic successes in egg production by using hormones to boost egg production and artificial insemination to increase fertile eggs, thus inducing at least one species of sea turtle to lay eggs twice a year instead of the normal annual clutch. It is also reported that under the optimal conditions, where highly nourishing food is provided in abundance and water temperatures controlled, the turtles reach a marketable age in about 65 percent of the time that it would have taken them to mature in natural surroundings. The resultant turtle crop is also larger since the young are protected from predators and far more of them

survive. Farmers have undertaken to release 10 percent of the annual hatchlings back into their native waters, and, since newly hatched turtles are totally independent, if they are protected for the first few days of their lives then survival rates should be high. The farming of yet another species for totally unnecessary human demands may be, for many, a deplorable act, but right now, it seems that it is either turtle farms or no turtles at all.



Mounted sea turtle on exhibit at the Hebrew University. (Werner Braun)

# GAME TIME

**HISTORY OF CHESS** - by Victor Keats, world-renowned expert. The most comprehensive review of chess history is now available in this 3 volume series by Victor Keats. Most of the text derives from translators from Arabic and Hebrew, with accompanying commentaries, illustrations, reproductions from manuscripts, and pictures of chess pieces and early chess problems. This is an invaluable reference source for collectors, players and everyone fascinated by this ancient game.

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## BUSINESS

in brief

### April money supply up 2.3%

M1 money supply increased 2.3 percent last month, according to figures published yesterday by the Bank of Israel. This followed a decrease of 1.8% in March and increases totalling 6% in the first two months.

M1 - which includes the sum of currency, demand deposits and travelers checks - significantly reflects the credit given by the banks to the business sector. *David Harris*

### Frenkel holds talks with Jordanians in Amman

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel was scheduled to meet Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan and Jordanian central bank Governor Ziad Fariz last night in Amman. The three were expected to discuss strengthening links between the banks and other related issues. *David Harris*

### 'Economist' roundtable starts today in capital

More than 120 businessmen and politicians from Israel and abroad will be in Jerusalem for a two-day Economist sponsored round-table event starting today.

Speakers include Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and other senior ministers. The conference, being held behind closed doors, is expected to give foreign investors the opportunity to understand Israel's policy decisions. "The questions to be asked will be how quickly are deregulation, privatization and reform of the financial sector being implemented?" according to conference chairman and Economist Business Affairs Editor Peter David.

Among those participating are senior executives from accountants Coopers and Lybrand LLP. "Our intention is to become the market leader in serving the high-tech venture capital market," said company spokesman Steven Silber. *David Harris*

## HAMMER

Continued from Page 1

Oded Cohen, an 11th-grader at Jerusalem's Al Yad Ha'Universita High School and chairman of the National Student and Youth Council, who had led the fight to reinstate the lottery system, was next, knocking history off the list. He was followed by council spokesman Galit Eliazi, who took care of Hebrew. The latter two, ironically, had been eliminated by the abortive committee decision last week.

Cohen, speaking before the drawing, said, "This feels great. This is a great day, even a historic day. The education minister, in a very, very courageous decision, which I and the council very much appreciate, returned the trust that I think was lost when the announcement was made about the establishment of the committee."

Asked why the decision could not have been made months ago, Hammer spokesman Ephraim Lapid said: "There was a way to do have done that, but it was decided that the element of surprise, by which we would maintain the intensity of study until the last moment, was more important. Looking back, we realize we were wrong."

Education Ministry Director-General Ben Zion Dell said Hammer had displayed "great civic courage" in making the decision, but said the original decision had been equally courageous, and had not harmed pupils.

Former education minister Amnon Rubinstein, who devised the lottery system, expressed his "happiness over the fact that the pupils' pressure and the threat to petition the High Court of Justice led the education minister to change his wrongful decision."

National Parents Association chairman Shai Lachman called Hammer's decision "the victory of justice and common sense," adding it was a "tremendous achievement for the parents and the pupils."

"The ministry's speedy backing down within 24 hours is a form of public acknowledgement of the serious moral and educational mistake made in its handling of this matter," Lachman said.

But Ran Erez, chairman of the Association of High School Teachers, said he has "reservations about the way the cancellation of the matriculation lottery was reached, and ask myself which of the two decisions by the Education Ministry was the correct one."

"If the ministry's leadership believed until this morning that it had reached the proper decision, it should have apologized for the way it reached that decision, drawn conclusions, and stood bravely behind it. The way they gave in, which stemmed from the wave of protests by the pupils, sends them the message that the way to get decisions cancelled, whether those decisions are justified or not, is to demonstrate and strike."

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# Water Commission: Don't break up Mekorot monopoly

By DAVID HARRIS

The Water Commission will urge National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon to object to proposals for reforming the water industry. Water Commissioner Meir Ben-Meir said yesterday.

Ben-Meir's statement came following Finance Minister Dan Meridor's decision to fully support the Arlozorov Committee's proposals to end Mekorot's monopoly of the water-extraction industry and to increase the price of water for farming purposes.

"The recommendations presented are an important step toward the effective management of the water industry in Israel," said

Meridor.

The report comes at a turning point for the sector, with water in short supply and a likely increase in demand in coming years, the minister added.

The major recommendations of the Arlozorov Report are:

- Establish private sector competitors to Mekorot.

- Pass legislation to regulate water and sewage supplies in municipalities.

- Prohibit Mekorot from entering areas of competition, including water purification and desalination complexes, and also inner city water supply.

- Set a levy on water producers at source per cubic meter, with the sum varying according to water

quality.

- Raise charges for water supplied to the agricultural sector, while offering farmers alternative help.

- The preservation of the Water Commission as the state body responsible for management of the water network, its overall control of other organizations in the industry and its price setting role.

- The establishment of a public water services authority, similar to the watchdog Public Utilities Authority (Electricity).

The implementation of the proposals will lead to greater efficiency, improved hydrological management of water sources and cheaper water to the end user, according to committee chairman

Shaul Arlozorov.

If the report's recommendations are put into effect, farmers will increasingly use treated sewage water, freeing up greater quantities of pure water for urban use, including industry.

The chapters dealing with deregulation of the industry are aimed at reducing centralization and the monopoly's stranglehold on the industry, particularly its infrastructure.

Ben-Meir is objecting to the proposals on several grounds, saying it will be impossible in practical terms for consumers to select their water suppliers and that the government will not succeed in breaking up the monopoly.

Increasing water prices to agri-

culture has two negative effects: an unjustified negative impact on farmers and, more seriously, a reduction in agricultural land and subsequent desertification, he said.

Ben-Meir also attacked the Treasury for publishing the report's recommendations before discussing them with Sharon.

"We have already discussed the report to the Treasury and assume the Agriculture and National Infrastructure ministries have done the same," said Finance Ministry deputy budget director Ronen Wolfman.

"Next will come interministerial talks, with the report coming before the cabinet within some two months."

## COMPANY RESULTS

# Cellcom's first-quarter net profit up sharply to NIS 86.9 million

By JUDY SIEGEL and JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Cellcom's net profits rocketed to NIS 86.9 million during the first quarter from NIS 8m. during the same period last year, the company announced yesterday.

The cellular phone company's revenues more than doubled to NIS 499.1m. from NIS 225.3m. The company, which says it has 650,000 subscribers, invested NIS 184m. in infrastructure during these three months.

Large numbers of new subscribers and increased rates allowed under its license were the main reason for the jump in profits, according to company president and CEO Ya'acov Perry.

Delek Israel Fuel Corp. yesterday reported a 43 percent jump in net income to NIS 42.8m. from

NIS 29.8m. In the same period last year. Revenue was up 4.5% to NIS 950m. from NIS 947m. The increases were attributed, in part, to higher gas prices.

ECI Telecom Ltd.'s first-quarter net income jumped 22% to \$29.42m. from \$24.02m. in the same period last year. Revenues rose 22% to \$160.1m.

The company attributed its success to strong sales of its DCME and SDH telephony technologies, which rose 70% and 74% respectively, as well as improved performance by its subsidiary Telematics. Sales of the ACCESS business Unit were down 11%, due to the late arrival of several orders, the company said. Based in Petah Tikva, ECI Telecom develops integrated network solutions for telecommunications providers.

PEC Israel Economic Corporation has reported a 25% increase in first-quarter net income to \$13m. from \$10.4m. in the same period last year. The company's results reflect an increase over 1996 of \$4.1m. in net gain on sales of investments and \$3.1m. in equity in net income of affiliated companies.

PEC of New York organizes, acquires interests, finances and participates in the management of companies, which are predominantly located in Israel or are Israel-related.

Geotek Communications Inc., a wireless mobile communications company, recently reported an increase in first-quarter net losses to \$34.3m. from \$25.5m. In the corresponding period one year ago. Revenues for the quarter inched up to \$22.7m. from \$21.5m.

# UK-Israel business conference postponed

By DAVID HARRIS

A UK-Israel business conference, officially endorsed by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and scheduled to take place in early June, has been postponed because of the failure of any Israeli ministers to agree to attend.

Senior British businessmen who put their names to the conference are said to be shocked by the postponement and also highly embarrassed, given the impression the conference could have made on the new British Labor government.

The conference, initiated by Tel Aviv company OSKR, was billed by Netanyahu as "a unique opportunity for European investors to familiarize themselves with recent developments and innovations on the Israeli-economic scene."

As of last week, British organizers of the event were under the impression that all five invited ministers - Dan Meridor (Finance), Ariel Sharon (National Infrastructure), Limor Livnat (Communications), Yitzhak Levy (Transport), and Moshe Katsav (Tourism) - intended participating. Only on Tuesday were the British told the conference was being postponed, with no reasons forthcoming from the Israeli side. However, by that stage none of the ministers had confirmed their participation.

The event had received the backing of top British executives, including Lord Young of Young Associates, Marks and Spencer chairman Sir Richard Greenbury, Cable & Wireless CEO Richard Brown, British Gas chairman Richard Giordano and leading Jewish businessman Sir Trevor Chinn.

"It is not a happy day in my life," said conference initiator Ruth Koren. "This does not transmit positive messages to the big companies in Europe."

Some 250 people had already indicated they wanted to participate in the event, including 100 from Israel and several from the Netherlands, Germany, France and Italy.

The Prime Minister's Office refused to comment on the issue.

It intends to reschedule the conference for an as yet undecided date.

# Arab air carriers forecast increased business

By ISSAM HAMZA

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - The Arab Air Carriers Organization (AACO) expects increased business for its members in the next five years, with the number of passengers on international routes increasing to more than 30 million in 2001 from 22.9 million in 1996. Abdul-Wahab Tuffaha, secretary-general of the 16-member group, said the volume of cargo was also expected to increase - to more than

one million tonnes from 730,000 tonnes in 1996.

But Tuffaha, taking part in AACO's general assembly in Damascus, said he expected no expansion in the carriers' current routes.

"We do not expect any increase in the international routes in the coming years. The increase would center on beefing up operations on certain routes within the same geographical map," he said.

Arab carriers had already started

preparations to meet the expected increase in business by expanding their fleets.

Khaled Slam, chairman of AACO's executive committee, said that Arab countries needed to spend \$20 billion over the next 10 years to expand fleets as demand picks up.

Tuffaha said Yemeni Airways, Gulf Air and Syrian Airlines had already signed contracts to buy or lease 13 planes.

Deliveries started in March and are expected to be completed by June 2001.

The AACO official said the Arab fleet consists at present of 397 planes of all sizes, of which 218 are Boeing, 115 Airbus, 25 Lockheed and 39 planes of other types.

Operational and non-operational revenues of Arab airlines totalled \$8.5b. in 1995, and that figure was likely to have grown to \$9b. when 1996 figures are finalized.

He said 73 percent of the revenue came from passengers and 11% from cargo.

AACO has 16 members: Air Algérie, Egypt Air, Emirates, Gulf Air, Iraqi Airways, Kuwaiti Airways, Libyan Arab Airlines, Royal Air Maroc, Royal Jordanian, Saudi Arabian Airlines, Sudan Air, Syrian Arab Airlines, Yemeni Airways, Middle East Airlines, Trans Mediterranean Airways and Tunis Air.

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| French franc  | 0.5976     | 0.5971      | 0.57      | 0.61       |
| Japanese yen (100)  | 2.9040     | 2.9509      | 2.85      | 3.00       |
| Dutch florin  | 1.7599     | 1.7883      | 1.72      | 1.82       |
| Swiss franc   | 2.3514     | 2.3894      | 2.31      | 2.43       |
| Swedish krona   | 0.4416     | 0.4490      | 0.43      | 0.46       |
| Norwegian krona   | 0.4782     | 0.4839      | 0.46      | 0.465      |
| Danish krona  | 0.5195     | 0.5279      | 0.51      | 0.54       |
| Finish mark   | 0.6651     | 0.6657      | 0.64      | 0.68       |
| Canadian dollar   | 2.4437     | 2.4698      | 2.40      | 2.473      |
| Australian dollar   | 2.0029     | 2.0448      | 2.55      | 2.59       |
| S. African rand   | 0.7510     | 0.7832      | 0.68      | 0.77       |
| Benjamin franc (10)   | 0.9585     | 0.9740      | 0.94      | 0.98       |
| Austrian schilling (10)   | 2.8113     | 2.8567      | 1.97      | 2.00       |
| Italian lira (1000)   | 2.0071     | 2.0085      | 2.76      | 2.84       |
| Jordanian dinar   | 4.7411     | 4.8178      | 4.68      | 4.81       |
| Egyptian pound  | 0.9800     | 1.0400      | 0.96      | 1.04       |
| EU  | 3.9619     | 3.9242      | —         | —          |
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| *These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI |            |             |           |            |



# Oracle to purchase Netscape Internet unit

By KOUROSH KARIMKHANY

**PALO ALTO, Calif. (Reuters)** — Oracle Corp. is expected to announce today that it plans to buy a unit of Netscape Communications Corp. that designs Internet-access devices, industry executives said over the weekend.

The chief executives of both companies — Oracle's Larry Ellison and Netscape's James Barksdale — plan to hold a press conference today. Netscape and Oracle officials declined to say what they will discuss.

Executives close to the companies said, however, that the Network Computer Inc. unit of Oracle may buy Netscape's Navio Communications Inc., which makes software for browsing the World

Wide Web through devices other than personal computers — such as television sets and video game machines.

Netscape established its Navio affiliate nine months ago, and Oracle and several consumer electronics companies announced support for the venture when it was first announced. Terms of the possible sale to Oracle could not be learned immediately.

Oracle's NCI unit is designing software for so-called network computers, or NCs. These relatively cheap devices are stripped-down computers that get much of their horsepower from corporate or public computer networks, such as the Internet. Oracle's Ellison, who runs the nation's second-highest software company after Microsoft

Corp., has been pushing the NC concept as a way for big companies to cut computer costs, and to get computers into the homes of less affluent consumers.

Until now, NCI has been concentrating on corporate markets. A Navio acquisition would give the unit expertise in making consumer-oriented devices, analysts said.

"It's tough to get Internet technology to work in the context of consumer electronics, because the processors are so simple, the memory is so limited and you don't have a hard drive," said Josh Bernoff, analyst at market researcher Forrester Research Inc. Navio is developing that expertise.

NC as a standard, Bernoff said.

Oracle also could use Navio to save off Microsoft in the battle for primacy in consumer's homes.

In March, Microsoft paid \$425 million to buy WebTV Networks, a company based in Palo Alto, California, that designs set-top devices for Internet access on TVs.

Netscape shares fell Friday after the company said its revenue in coming quarter could be less than investors expected partly because of competition with Microsoft.

In recent months, Netscape executives have said they would concentrate less on selling software to consumers and more on software to help corporate employees communicate.

Netscape stock fell \$5.31 to \$39.25, while Oracle slid \$1.56 to \$44.375 on Nasdaq.

## COMMODITIES ROUNDUP

### Precious metals tumble

By MICHAEL ZWERNER

Precious metals ended Friday sharply down as fears about central bank gold sales were rekindled and gold selling pushed silver lower.

Sources have said that sentiment has been hurt by concern over potential gold sales by the Bundesbank, despite an announcement by the German finance minister that there was no plan to sell gold.

The news rekindled speculation that other countries are trying to meet financial requirements for European economic and monetary union, and this is weighing on sentiment about gold.

Sources also noted that if the Federal Open Market Committee raises interest rates tomorrow, it will very possibly further harm sentiment for gold.

Platinum and palladium also were lower on the day, but the market is still awaiting news from Russia about when exports will resume. On the day, June gold closed down \$3.50 at \$344.90. July silver closed down 16.5 cents at \$4.6930. July platinum closed down \$2.70 at \$391.20 and June palladium closed down \$1.15 at \$172.10.

Copper futures ended the day steady after erasing modest losses to end the day virtually unchanged.

Activity was limited with thin volume periods interspersed with decent trading activity. A point of interest will be developments with talks between Chiquicamama supervisors and Codelco management. They have said that they are going to vote whether to strike on May 27.

The mine produces 630,000 metric tons of copper a year.

July high-grade copper futures closed down 20 basis points at \$4.6900.

New York cotton futures closed mixed, with the market unchanged much of the day. At settlement, July cotton was 12 points lower at 73.04 cents. December cotton was up seven points at 75.23 cents.

World raw sugar futures finished lower, with the July contract ending beneath the 11-cent mark after late speculative selling. Analysts said sugar supplies were ample because of large cane production this season, and that Australia's new crop appears to be a record.

The July delivery settled four points lower at 10.97. Coffee futures ended lower after hectic profit-taking pruned prices from the new 20-year high of \$2.80 a pound, basis May, achieved on the opening.

US coffee stocks ballooned 12% during April. Moreover, stocks in exchange-certified warehouses have been rising in daily reports, analysts observed. And the crop in Brazil, where harvesting is getting under way, appears to be in good shape.

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**Beijing-Hong Kong train service begins**  
 The inaugural number 97 Beijing-to-Kowloon passenger train passes a Chinese railway guard on the platform of Beijing's West Railway Station, beginning the operation of a direct service between the two cities yesterday. (Reuters)

# Largest UK union pressures Blair on minimum wage promise

By CHERYL JUCKES

**LONDON (Reuters)** — Britain's largest trade union Unison, which represents 1.3 million public sector workers, signaled yesterday that it would make sure the new Labor government kept its promise to introduce a minimum wage.

Unison asked the two-week-old administration of Prime Minister Tony Blair to set the rate at £4.26 per hour, the same rate demanded by the Trades Union Congress last year.

"My job is to keep up the pressure for a decent rate, which will really make a difference to the army of workers on poverty pay,"

said General Secretary Rodney Bickerstaffe. "Many of those who oppose the minimum wage are high earners, out of touch with the real-life struggle of surviving on poverty pay. Let them tell these UNISON members why they should not be paid a fair wage for a fair day's work."

The report said the severity and extent of poverty had increased rapidly during 13 years of Conservative government and more than 5.6 million people — one in four workers aged 18 or more — were now paid less than £4.26 an hour.

In contrast, official figures show average hourly earnings for employees in Britain are at £7.36.

Britain first had a minimum wage in 1909, introduced through the Wages Council.

The Conservatives, ousted on May 1, abolished the Council in 1993 for all but agricultural workers, arguing that a compulsory floor on pay levels was stifling job creation.

Labor, which has its roots in the trade union movement, places greater emphasis on employee rights and argues that most major industrial nations, such as the US and Japan, have minimum pay levels without damaging employment.

The UNISON report argued that increases in the US minimum wage had reduced inequality there as well as in France.

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| Chef Israel 2 | 119.0  | 2.2  |        |
| Chef Israel 3 | 135.0  | 1.7  |        |
| Bank Leumi    | 132.0  | 2.2  |        |
| Bank Leumi 2  | 105.0  | 2.3  |        |
| Bank Leumi 3  | 85.0   | 4.4  |        |
| Bank Leumi 4  | 279.0  | 3.0  |        |
| Bank Leumi 5  | 43.8   | 2.8  |        |
| Bank Leumi 6  | 39.0   | 1.4  |        |
| Bank Leumi 7  | 286.0  | 3.7  |        |
| Bank Leumi 8  | 79.0   | -1.0 |        |
| Bank Leumi 9  | 225.0  | -1.3 |        |
| Bank Leumi 10 | 362.0  | -0.7 |        |
| Bank Leumi 11 | 355.0  | -0.2 |        |
| Bank Leumi 12 | 129.0  | -0.2 |        |
| Bank Leumi 13 | 227.0  | 1.8  |        |
| Bank Leumi 14 | 85.0   | 1.0  |        |
| Bank Leumi 15 | 444.0  | -0.2 |        |
| Bank Leumi 16 | 138.0  | 0.8  |        |
| Bank Leumi 17 | 221.0  | 1.5  |        |
| Bank Leumi 18 | 427.0  | 0.0  |        |
| Bank Leumi 19 | 138.0  | 0.8  |        |
| Bank Leumi 20 | 221.0  | -0.2 |        |
| Bank Leumi 21 | 251.0  | -1.0 |        |
| Bank Leumi 22 | 35.0   | 3.0  |        |
| Bank Leumi 23 | 117.0  | 0.0  |        |
| Bank Leumi 24 | 76.0   | 0.3  |        |
| Bank Leumi 25 | 187.0  | 0.3  |        |
| Bank Leumi 26 | 27.0   | 3.5  |        |
| Bank Leumi 27 | 75.0   | 0.7  |        |
| Bank Leumi 28 | 27.0   | 2.7  |        |
| Bank Leumi 29 | 4.5    | 0.3  |        |

| LAST          | CHANGE | LAST | CHANGE |
|---------------|--------|------|--------|
| Bank Leumi 30 | 188.0  | 1.2  |        |
| Bank Leumi 31 | 46.0   | -1.0 |        |
| Bank Leumi 32 | 233.0  | -0.9 |        |
| Bank Leumi 33 | 210.0  | 0.5  |        |
| Bank Leumi 34 | 257.0  | 0.8  |        |
| Bank Leumi 35 | 85.0   | 1.8  |        |
| Bank Leumi 36 | 145.0  | 2.0  |        |
| Bank Leumi 37 | 47.0   | 1.1  |        |
| Bank Leumi 38 | 287.0  | -0.5 |        |
| Bank Leumi 39 | 194.0  | 1.4  |        |
| Bank Leumi 40 | 257.0  | 2.0  |        |
| Bank Leumi 41 | 276.0  | 1.0  |        |
| Bank Leumi 42 | 308.0  | 1.8  |        |
| Bank Leumi 43 | 42.0   | 2.5  |        |
| Bank Leumi 44 | 154.0  | 0.0  |        |
| Bank Leumi 45 | 31.0   | 0.0  |        |
| Bank Leumi 46 | 298.0  | 0.5  |        |
| Bank Leumi 47 | 297.0  | 0.7  |        |
| Bank Leumi 48 | 45.0   | 0.8  |        |
| Bank Leumi 49 | 57.0   | 0.3  |        |
| Bank Leumi 50 | 214.0  | -0.7 |        |
| Bank Leumi 51 | 17.0   | 1.7  |        |
| Bank Leumi 52 | 107.0  | -1.0 |        |
| Bank Leumi 53 | 85.0   | -1.2 |        |
| Bank Leumi 54 | 38.0   | -0.5 |        |
| Bank Leumi 55 | 180.0  | 1.8  |        |
| Bank Leumi 56 | 125.0  | 0.5  |        |

| LAST          | CHANGE | LAST | CHANGE |
|---------------|--------|------|--------|
| Bank Leumi 57 | 915.0  | 1.8  |        |
| Bank Leumi 58 | 159.0  | 0.5  |        |
| Bank Leumi 59 | 228.0  | 0.5  |        |
| Bank Leumi 60 | 417.0  | -1.5 |        |
| Bank Leumi 61 | 1432.0 | 4.0  |        |
| Bank Leumi 62 | 345.0  | 3.7  |        |
| Bank Leumi 63 | 2738.0 | 0.2  |        |
| Bank Leumi 64 | 287.0  | 2.2  |        |
| Bank Leumi 65 | 39.0   | 1.2  |        |
| Bank Leumi 66 | 98.0   | -0.2 |        |
| Bank Leumi 67 | 99.0   | 1.2  |        |
| Bank Leumi 68 | 105.0  | 0.0  |        |
| Bank Leumi 69 | 40.0   | 0.5  |        |
| Bank Leumi 70 | 105.0  | 1.0  |        |
| Bank Leumi 71 | 773.0  | 1.8  |        |
| Bank Leumi 72 | 89.0   | 0.0  |        |
| Bank Leumi 73 | 257.0  | 2.7  |        |
| Bank Leumi 74 | 91.0   | 0.4  |        |
| Bank Leumi 75 | 197.0  | -1.8 |        |
| Bank Leumi 76 | 25.0   | 1.5  |        |
| Bank Leumi 77 | 56.0   | 3.5  |        |
| Bank Leumi 78 | 114.0  | 0.5  |        |
| Bank Leumi 79 | 92.0   | 0.8  |        |

\*In percentage points

## TESHUVA

Continued from Page 3

"I don't have the words to describe what it was like," he said. "The seminar was bigger than life. It was gigantic. The questions that were asked. The doubts that were raised. The rabbi answered all the questions."

They even answered the questions about the Holocaust.

"I didn't believe the first things they said to me," he recalled. "I wanted facts. And they supplied them. All sorts of prophecies about the Holocaust. For example, in the Talmud, Tractate Megilla, [it describes how the patriarch] Jacob was already praying to the Creator of the Universe to prevent the Holocaust. You see, there is a plan, just like the blueprint an engineer follows when he builds a building. When there is a blueprint, you can correct a mistake before the building is erected."

One might think that the Holocaust would turn a religious man into a skeptic rather serve to corroborate God's existence. But today, O.H. believes that the blame for the fact that the "error" which became the Holocaust was

not "corrected" in time falls on the "contractor, because he did not prepare the right mixture" rather than the engineer who designed the plan.

Furthermore, "there are many stories that don't reach the media. I learned that many haredim did not die in the Holocaust. I heard testimony from old people [who survived]. For example, the Nazis wanted to hang the *shohet* [ritual slaughterer] of one village with a very heavy rope, but the rope snapped and the man survived."

O.H. returned home a changed young man. "It was at Hanukkah that I became a *hozer beshuva*," he said.

"Three months later, I left school. I assumed the burden of the kingdom of heaven [of *malchut shamayim*] and understood once and for all that there is a Creator and that He wants each of us to diligently pursue His plan, for which He has provided the instructions."

O.H.'s parents refused to be interviewed. But he said they have accepted the change with satisfaction. They balked only when he returned from Ohr Somayach with his beard and black kippa.

"We sat down and talked about it calmly and pleasantly for many hours," said O.H. "I spoke to them using simple language. We have the chemistry to explain things to our parents calmly and pleasantly, without quarreling."

O.H.'s sister, who was 16 at the time, attended an Arachim seminar immediately after her brother and also became observant. Today she is studying at a girls' high school in Jerusalem. The following year, O.H.'s mother also attended a seminar and became observant, along with the youngest son, who is now studying in a haredi Talmud Torah. The father is the only boldout in the family and a clear embarrassment to O.H., who refuses to discuss him but gives the impression that he regards his father's inability or unwillingness to observe mitzvot as a weakness of character.

His faltering on this point comes across as the one blemish in an otherwise idyllic story of a family adopting a haredi way of life.

O.H.'s odyssey is clearly not over. For example, it took him two years to shed his sneakers, T-shirt, and jeans in favor of the traditional yeshiva garb. Why did he do it?

"I was talking with a friend of mine who wears a knitted kippa," said O.H. "I told him that if he wants to behave like a secular person after he leaves the synagogue, all he has to do is stick his kippa in his pocket. My clothes are my boundaries. I can't stick my suit in my pocket and pretend I'm something else."

The idea of gradual enlightenment was a constant refrain in his narrative.

"The process of teshuva is like the growth of a sapling," he said. "You plant it in the ground, but it takes time to grow. It doesn't 'grow in one day.' At another point, he said: "You are like a child whose father gets angry at him for the things he has done, so you try to correct them. You can't correct everything at once, but you start."

It is not by coincidence that he expounds on this idea. It has been explained to him over and over again, for it is the *teshuva* movement's operative strategy for winning secular souls over to observance.

Third in a five-part series on the *teshuva* movement in Israel's poorer neighborhoods. Tomorrow: Fire and brimstone in Bat Yam.

## TASE ROUNDUP

# Stocks up on rates optimism

**Mishtanim** 265.84 ▲ 0.66%  
**Maof** 273.27 ▲ 0.71%

By ROBERT DANIEL

Stocks advanced yesterday after the government on Thursday reported lower-than-expected consumer inflation for April, lifting hopes that the central bank might cut interest rates.

Weakness on Wall Street Friday tempered the gains, analysts said.

Leading the market higher were Bank Leumi, Discount Bank, holding companies Discount Investments Ltd., Clal Electronics Industries Ltd., and Clal Israel Ltd.; and state-controlled telecommunications provider Bezeq.

Prominent among the losers were Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd., Israel Chemicals Ltd., Koor Industries Ltd. and Supersol Ltd.

"The market responded to the lower inflation," said Zvi Hoffman, co-managing director at Meitav Ltd. The M1 money supply, reported yesterday, rose 2.3 percent in April from March.

Taken together, the figures "will allow the Bank of Israel to do a small reduction," perhaps 0.25 or 0.3 percentage point, he said.

In addition, "Wall Street was a little bit weak," said Shachar Gazit, analyst at Innot Banca in Tel Aviv.

On Friday, the Dow Jones dropped 1.89% and the Standard & Poor's 500 index shed 1.44% on concern that corporate earnings growth might slow.

The Mishtanim Index of 100 most-traded issues rose 0.66% to 265.84, while the Maof Index of 25 top stocks added 0.71% to 273.27.

Across the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, NIS 128.2 million of shares traded. About seven issues rose for every three that fell.

Discount Investments shares jumped 3.75% to 288.03 as the holding company, with interests in communications, fuel and tool production, reported 21% higher first-quarter net income. Profit soared at its Celcom mobile-phone subsidiary.

Bank Leumi shares rose 3% to 5.3. A *Ha'aretz* report said foreign institutional investors are likely to purchase 70%-80% of an offering of Bank Leumi shares scheduled this month. The government holds 82% of Israel's No. 2 bank based on assets.

Supersol Ltd. shares declined 0.75% to 10.51. The supermarket chain reported first-quarter net income dropped 7% on losses at its own-food business and recently acquired supermarkets. Revenue advanced 19%.

Delek shares rose 2.25% to 105.34. The gas company reported first-quarter net income rose 43%, partly because of higher gasoline prices, as sales rose 4.5%.

After the market closed Thursday, the Central Bank of Statistics said consumer prices in April rose 0.7%, the smallest April increase in six years, as vegetable prices unexpectedly dropped.

Analysts had expected a rise of 1.2%.

The report could prompt Central Bank Governor Jacob Frenkel to cut rates later in the month, analysts say. (Bloomberg)

## WHERE TO GO

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**SPORTS**

in brief

**Kashtan to Betar, Tabak to Beersheba**

Dror Kashtan yesterday finalized details of his new job with the management of newly-crowned league champions Betar Jerusalem and he will take over the reins at Teddy Stadium next season. Current Betar coach, Eli Cohen, will probably replace Kashtan at Hapoel Tel Aviv.

Benny Tabak was released from his post as coach of the national under-16 team by an irate IFA Chairman Gavri Levy and will take over at Hapoel Beersheba next season. Levy has ordered Tabak to pay the IFA compensation to the tune of NIS 120,000 for breaking the new contract he signed just two weeks ago. Ori Lewis

**Corretja wins Italian Open**

ROME (Reuter) - Spain's Alex Corretja was crowned Italian Open singles champion for the first time yesterday, defeating Marcelo Rios 7-5, 7-5, 6-3 to establish himself as favorite for the French Open which starts a week today.

The number 10 seed, who has the season's best record on clay in which he has lost just four times, avenged his loss to Rios in Monte Carlo last month.

The victory also hoisted him among the elite of world tennis. When the new rankings are announced today, the Spaniard will be No. 8 in the world.

**Parma prevent Juventus winning Italian title**

ROME (Reuter) - Parma prevented Juventus from clinching their 24th Serie A title in front of their home fans yesterday when they held the European champions to a hard-fought 1-1 draw at Turin's Delle Alpi Stadium.

But the draw merely delayed the Juventus party. The European Cup finalists kept a six-point lead over second-placed Parma and need only draw in one of their last two matches to lift their second "scudetto," or little shield, in three seasons.

**Silver Charm wins Preakness**

BALTIMORE (Reuter) - Silver Charm became the first horse in eight years to win the first two jewels of the Triple Crown, nosing out Free House in a photo finish Saturday to win the 122nd running of the Preakness Stakes. Captain Bodgit finished third.

Silver Charm will set his sights on the Belmont Stakes, on June 7. There has not been a Triple Crown winner since Affirmed in 1978.

**Mary Jo Fernandez wins German Open**

BERLIN (Reuter) - Mary Jo Fernandez of the US won the final of the \$926,000 German Open in straight sets yesterday as Mary Pierce ran out of steam in her bid to add another title to last week's Italian Open victory.

The consistent Fernandez, ranked 14th in the world, rattled off eight games to go from 4-2 down in the first set to 4-0 up in the second. The 6-4, 6-2 win in the clay-court event gave her her first title in two years.

**Cantona announces retirement**

MANCHESTER (Reuter) - French striker Eric Cantona has retired from professional soccer, his club Manchester United announced yesterday.

Cantona, who will be 31 on May 24, has had a moderate season with United, although the club retained the English premier league title - their fourth league triumph in five seasons.

Cantona has had a colorful history in his years with the club, most famously in 1995 when he took a flying kick at a Crystal Palace fan and ended up in court.

But, with his imperious talent on the pitch and his enigmatic quotes and intriguing personality off it, he always held a special place in the hearts of United fans.

Club chairman Martin Edwards announced Cantona's retirement at a hastily-arranged news conference at the club's Old Trafford ground.

"I'm extremely sorry that Eric has arrived at this decision but understand and respect his reason," Edwards said.

"Many of us believe Eric has been the catalyst for the most successful period in our history."

"During Eric's time with us we have won four premier league trophies and two FA Cups."

"It is no coincidence that shortly after Eric's arrival we won the league for the first time in 26 years and have subsequently completed two doubles. It has truly been a magical time."

Cantona was not at the news conference, he is holidaying with his family in France, but the club read a statement on his behalf.

"I've played professional football for 13 years, which is a long time. I now wish to do other things," the statement read.

"I always planned to retire when I was at the top and at Manchester United I have reached the pinnacle of my career."

"In the last four and a half years I've enjoyed my best football and had a wonderful time. I've had a



SO SAD - A young Manchester supporter stands in trepidation outside Old Trafford fearful of the news which is about to break about his hero's immediate retirement. (Reuter)

marvellous relationship with the manager, coach, staff and players and not least the fans. "I wish Manchester United even more success in the future."

United manager Alex Ferguson, who brought the Frenchman to Old Trafford for £1.2 million from premier league rivals Leeds in 1992, spoke warmly of

Cantona's contribution to the club. "Eric has had a huge impact on the development of our younger players," Ferguson said.

"He's been a model professional in the way he's conducted himself and has been a joy to manage. "He's currently one of the most gifted and dedicated players I've

ever had the pleasure of working with. "Whenever fans discuss United's greatest ever side you can be sure that, in many, Eric's name will be very high up on the list.

"He leaves with our best wishes and will always be welcome at Old Trafford. He's given us so

many wonderful memories." Cantona started his career with French club Auxerre in 1983 and moved to Martigues, Marseille, Bordeaux, Montpellier and Nimes before crossing the Channel to England. He also won a league championship with Leeds. He said recently he had no plans to leave Britain.

**Red Wings beat Avalanche 4-2 to tie series at 1-1**

DENVER (Reuter) - Steve Yzerman scored from behind the net with five minutes left and the Detroit Red Wings rallied from two-goals down for a 4-2 victory over the Colorado Avalanche to even the NHL Western Conference finals at one game apiece on Saturday.

The Red Wings ended Colorado's 11-game post-season winning streak at home and claimed home-ice advantage.

Yzerman broke into the Colorado zone and went around defenseman Sandis Ozolinsh before goaltender Patrick Roy stopped his shot from the low left faceoff circle. But Yzerman collected the rebound and banked a shot off Roy's backside

that the goalie ended up knocking into the net with his left skate.

Detroit's Nicklas Lidstrom made the defensive play of the game with 2:35 left to keep the Red Wings ahead. Eric Lacroix had the puck all alone off a rebound with an open net in front of him, but Lidstrom made a stick save behind goalie Mike Vernon.

Daren McCarty beat Roy on a breakaway with 1:17 to play to seal the victory for Detroit, which dominated the first two games of the series. The Red Wings, who finished 13 points behind the defending Stanley Cup champions in the regular season, outshot Colorado, 40-17.

Game Three is today in Detroit.

**Harazi recalled for Russia game**

By ORI LEWIS

Betar Jerusalem striker Ronnen Harazi was recalled to the Israel squad yesterday for the European group 5 World Cup qualifier against Russia in Moscow on June 8.

Harazi, who has scored 19 goals in his 36 appearances in national colors, had been out of action since the 2-0 loss to Cyprus in a group 5 qualifying match in Limassol last November. He was recovering from an ankle operation and only recently returned to full fitness.

Harazi played the full 90 minutes during the Jerusalem derby on Saturday, and had several chances to score. He was responsible for setting up Eli Ohana's goal which put Betar ahead late in the first half. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.

Israel coach Shlomo Scharf is also expected to toss the captain's armband to Harazi's team mate Eli Ohana as Tal Bianco, who is suspended for one match due to receiving two yellow cards will be unable to play in Moscow.

Also named in the 20-man squad are three of the five players who were suspended a day before the game against Cyprus last month after

breaking a team curfew.

The three are Avi Nimni, Felix Halfon and David Amsalem. Of the other two, Haim Revivo of Spain's Celta Vigo will be included only if he can get to a training camp before the squad leaves for Moscow on June 8.

The fifth suspended player, former captain Nir Klingler, announced his retirement from international soccer immediately after being suspended.

Not included in the squad due to what Scharf called professional reasons are Yossi Abuksis and Gadi Bruner, who is still not fully fit following a leg injury.

Squad: Goalkeepers: Rafi Cohen (Hapoel Haifa), Itzik Korotkin (Betar Jerusalem).

Defenders: Moshe Glas (Maccabi Haifa), Amir Shekeli (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Alon Harazi (Maccabi Haifa), Assi Dombi (Betar Jerusalem), David Amsalem (Betar Jerusalem), Felix Halfon (Hapoel Tel Aviv), Arki Beasono (Maccabi Haifa).

Midfielders: Eyal Berkovic (Southampton), Reviva Ahar (Maccabi Haifa), Avi Nimni (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Itzik Zohar (Betar Jerusalem), Ran Ben-Shimon (Hapoel Haifa), Avishai Janno (Maccabi Haifa).

Strikers: Ronnen Harazi (Betar Jerusalem), Eli Ohana (Betar Jerusalem), captain, Alon Mizrahi (Dafni Yotvata), Ronan Rosenthal (Ovetuchan Hotspar), Shai Holtzman (Hapoel Beersheba).

**Houston beats Seattle to win Western Conference semifinals**

HOUSTON (Reuter) - The Houston Rockets rode their All-Star trio of Hakeem Olajuwon, Charles Barkley and Clyde Drexler into the Western Conference finals with a 96-91 Game Seven win over the Seattle SuperSonics on Saturday.

Olajuwon, Barkley and Drexler scored all but six of Houston's points in the second half, when the Rockets surged to a 14-point lead and held off a furious rally by the defending conference champions down the stretch.

Drexler scored eight of his 24 points in the fourth quarter. Olajuwon added 22 and 13 rebounds and Barkley - who guaranteed a win after two straight Houston losses - contributed 20 and 14.

The Rockets took control by holding the SuperSonics without a point for nearly six minutes of the second half.

Matt Maloney scored 15 points for the Rockets, who will face the Utah Jazz in the conference finals beginning today.

Houston defeated Seattle for the first time in six playoff series.

"It was a great team effort," Barkley said. "They have a terrific team. Everyone wanted to say bad things about us, but they were terrific to come back from three games to one. If you can't win a game seven at Houston it would mean they are just better than you."

Gary Payton scored 27 points and Shawn Kemp had 21 and 10 boards for the Sonics, who lost an elimination game for the first time in five tries. Seattle was trying to become the sixth team in playoff history to win a series after trailing 3-1.

The Sonics had just one basket in the first eight minutes of the

final period and appeared dead after Olajuwon's follow dunk with 3:52 remaining gave the Rockets an 88-74 lead.

But Seattle went to a trap and made a final charge. Two baskets by Hersey Hawkins around a steal cut the deficit to 10 points and Maloney missed two free throws with 3:05 to play.

Dettlef Schrempf made a three-pointer and Hawkins had a steal and layup, pulling the Sonics within 88-83 with 2:40 left. Drexler split two foul shots and Kemp was fouled as he scored on a drive. His free throw made it 89-86 with 1:33 remaining, but Maloney hurried a three-pointer - his only points of the second half - 16 seconds later.

Seattle kept coming, as two free throws by Payton and an inside basket by Schrempf cut it to 92-90 with 21 seconds left. Again, Drexler missed one of two foul shots and Terry Cummings was hit on the rebound, but he also missed once.

Hawkins grabbed Drexler's shorts with 17 seconds remaining, and Seattle got one more chance when Drexler again split the pair of free throws. But Kemp missed an off-balance three-pointer from the left corner and Schrempf lost the rebound out of bounds. A basket by Olajuwon sealed it.

**NBA not on TV**

Cable TV Sports Channel, after having announced its intention to broadcast live Game 7 of the Knicks-Heat Eastern Conference semifinals last night, changed its programming at the 11th hour, and the game was not broadcast as reported.

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IMMEDIATE JOBS AVAILABLE, friendliest families, best conditions, the agency with a heart for the Au Pairs. Call Hilma. Tel. (03) 965-9937.

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**FOR SALE**  
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General  
**SEEKING**  
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**COMMERCIAL COMPANY IN AZUR** seeks secretary, English mother tongue, Spanish desirable, full-time. Tel. 03-559-8288.

**Major League Baseball**

| National League  |    |    |      |        | American League |    |    |      |        |
|------------------|----|----|------|--------|-----------------|----|----|------|--------|
| East Division    | W  | L  | Pct. | GB     | East Division   | W  | L  | Pct. | GB     |
| Atlanta          | 28 | 13 | .683 | -      | Baltimore       | 27 | 13 | .675 | -      |
| Florida          | 25 | 16 | .610 | 3      | New York        | 25 | 17 | .595 | 3      |
| Montreal         | 22 | 17 | .564 | 5      | Toronto         | 21 | 18 | .538 | 8      |
| New York         | 21 | 20 | .512 | 7      | Detroit         | 18 | 23 | .439 | 9      |
| Philadelphia     | 15 | 25 | .375 | 12 1/2 | Boston          | 16 | 23 | .410 | 10 1/2 |
| Central Division |    |    |      |        | West Division   |    |    |      |        |
| Houston          | 22 | 20 | .524 | -      | Kansas City     | 20 | 19 | .513 | -      |
| Pittsburgh       | 21 | 20 | .512 | 1/2    | Milwaukee       | 19 | 19 | .500 | 1/2    |
| St. Louis        | 17 | 23 | .426 | 4      | Cleveland       | 18 | 20 | .487 | 1      |
| Chicago          | 13 | 27 | .326 | 8      | Chicago         | 17 | 22 | .436 | 2      |
| Cincinnati       | 12 | 28 | .300 | 9      | Minnesota       | 18 | 22 | .448 | 1 1/2  |
| West Division    |    |    |      |        | West Division   |    |    |      |        |
| Los Angeles      | 24 | 15 | .615 | -      | Texas           | 22 | 17 | .564 | -      |
| San Francisco    | 23 | 16 | .590 | 1      | Seattle         | 23 | 18 | .561 | -      |
| Colorado         | 23 | 17 | .575 | 1 1/2  | Anaheim         | 20 | 19 | .513 | 2      |
| San Diego        | 15 | 24 | .385 | 9      | Oakland         | 17 | 26 | .395 | 7      |

Saturday's NL games: San Diego @ Cincinnati 2; NY Mets 3, Colorado 1; Florida 11, Pittsburgh 1; Philadelphia 4, Houston 2; Atlanta 11, St. Louis 6; Los Angeles @ Montreal 5; San Francisco 4, Chicago Cubs 1.  
Saturday's AL games: Cleveland @ Toronto 1; Chicago White Sox 7, Oakland @ Boston 4; Minnesota @ Detroit 3; Kansas City 2; NY Yankee 11, Texas 5; Anaheim @ Milwaukee 5; Baltimore 4, Seattle 3.

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lewis

CRITIC'S CHOICE

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

It's just recently opened on Broadway, but the Haifa English Theater has received special permission from Neil Simon to perform the latest of his "suite" comedies. This one's London Suite, four one-acters following the fortunes and misfortunes of four different sets of people in the same London hotel suite. There's a nostalgic widow and her daughter, a writer and his investment advisor, a star who meets her ex, and a young couple who've lost their tickets to Wimbledon. HET veterans Laura Sivan and Ed Cogan each direct two and the fun is at the Haifa Museum today at 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday at 8:30 p.m.

DANCE

HELEN KAYE

The Israel Ballet performs Bera Yampolsky's version of Tchaikovsky's perennial favorite, The Nutcracker. It's fun, colorful and great for kids. At Theater North in Haifa at 6 p.m.

GUITAR

HELEN KAYE

Award-winning composer and classical guitarist Reuven Seroussi gives a lecture/demonstration on the classical guitar in the 20th century with guest percussionist Karen Phenippon. At Jerusalem's Confederation House at 9 p.m.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Clarinetist Eli Eban, who currently teaches at the Indiana School of Music presents masterclasses at the Jerusalem Music Center today, Wednesday and Thursday (on each day, 10 a.m.-1 & 3:30-5:30). Admission free. Tomorrow Eban joins the Israel String Quartet in performing the



Clarinetist Eli Eban presents his master classes at the Jerusalem Music Center.

Reger clarinet quintet in a program which also features Hayden's Lark quartet and Mendelssohn's Opus 80 quartet. 8:30 at the Tel Aviv Museum.

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

Zahal 1 is a new original Israeli sit-com airing tonight on Channel 2 at 9:10 p.m. The show (made on a small budget) is set in an army radio station (Galei Zahal), where a group of talented and ambitious young broadcasters try to work within a strict military atmosphere. With Shmuel Vilozney, Sharon Kantor, Lior Miller, Rama Messinger and Amos Shuv.

Another comedy series airing tonight is The Thin Blue Line, a seven part British show about goofy policemen in a small British town. The town is like many other towns, the police station is just like many other stations, but the people working there are quite unlike anything else. With Rowan Atkinson. Channel 1, 11:00 p.m.

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel
8:00 Computers and the Internet
8:30 Basic Arabic
9:00 Reading
9:20 Nature
9:45 Programs for the very young
10:15 Sciences
10:40 English
11:10 Social Sciences
11:40 Tolerance
12:10 Sciences
12:30 History
13:00 In the Heat of the Night
14:00 Surprise Train
14:20 Kitty Cat and Tommy
14:35 Quentin Quack
15:10 Without Secrets
15:30 Molomoe from Mars
15:55 Body
16:00 Telesh - interactive live show
18:25 Yehudeus
18:50 Super Ben
19:50 A New Evening
19:54 Zappy Culture
18:15 News in English
ARABIC PROGRAMS
18:30 Sports
19:00 News
HEBREW PROGRAMS
19:30 Sports flash
19:31 Hebrew Video Clips
20:00 News
20:10 Popolita
22:15 Different Drummer
23:00 The Thin Blue Line - new British comedy series starring Rowan Atkinson as a bumbling cop. Part 1.
17:15 Milestones in Science and Technology
17:30 Faces of Culture
18:00 Basic Arabic
18:30 Family Connections
19:00 Computers and the Internet
19:10 Vis & Vis
19:50 Hello Prima
20:00 A New Evening
20:30 Cybernews
21:00 Star Trek: Deep Space 9
21:45 Family Matters
12:00 Twisted Tales of Felix
12:30 Hugo
12:40 Make Believe
13:10 Sonic
13:35 Inspector Gadget
14:00 The Little Bits
14:30 Alice in Wonderland
15:00 The Center of Things
15:15 Pink Panther Show
15:30 Ocean Girl
18:15 The Center of Things
16:35 California Dreams
17:00 Fun on Six
17:30 Shesh-Tus
18:00 Hugo
18:30 Honey Bee Hatch
19:00 Journey to the Center of the Earth
19:30 Step by Step
20:00 Animaniacs
20:20 Married With Children
20:45 Recess
21:10 The Cosby Show
21:45 Star Trek: Voyager
22:05 Red and Steve
22:30 Love Story with Yossi Sassi
23:00 Service

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Tricky
7:00 Breakfast Magazines
9:00 Meetings
10:00 Pablo
11:00 The Brits Empire
11:20 Alfonso Bonzo
12:00 Doug
12:30 The Arab World
13:00 Kaitis and Ellie
13:30 Open Cards
14:00 The Kids of Degrassi Street
14:10 Our Time
15:00 Super Duper
15:30 Luke A Wish
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
17:00 News magazine with Rafi Reshef
17:30 Zetu Zeh (rtl)
18:00 Simbad
19:00 Pacific Blue
20:00 News
20:30 It's Nothing
21:10 IDF 1 - original series set at a military radio station
21:45 Dan Shilon Live
23:20 Mitzvanim
00:00 News
00:05 Millennium - continued
00:15 Just Ours Talk
2:00 On the Edge of the Shell
15:30 Holy Koran
15:35 French programs
16:00 German Scene
17:15 Star
18:30 French programs
19:30 News in French
19:30 News headlines
19:35 The Point in the Circle
20:00 Secrets of Science
20:30 Murder She Wrote
21:10 Highlander
22:30 News

CHANNEL 3

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pine (rtl)
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Sassi (rtl)
8:00 Dallas (rtl)
9:00 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless (rtl)
10:30 Days of Our Lives (rtl)
11:30 The Santa Barbara (rtl)
12:00 Barnaby Jones
12:45 The Streets of San Francisco
13:30 Hope and Gloria
14:00 Dallas
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 The Hanny
16:00 Hercules
16:45 Zingara
17:30 Good Evening with Guy Pine
18:00 Local Broadway
18:30 One Life to Live
19:15 The Young and the Restless
20:00 The Santa Barbara
20:50 Married With Children
21:15 Shock Show
21:40 Star Trek
22:05 Red and Steve
22:30 Love Story with Yossi Sassi
23:00 Service

JORDAN TV

15:30 Holy Koran
15:35 French programs
16:00 German Scene
17:15 Star
18:30 French programs
19:30 News in French
19:30 News headlines
19:35 The Point in the Circle
20:00 Secrets of Science
20:30 Murder She Wrote
21:10 Highlander
22:30 News

English
22:30 The Write
23:15 The Cinder Path

MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 TV Shop
14:30 The 700 Club
15:00 Gerbert
15:30 Dennis the Menace
16:00 Larry King
17:00 Family Challenge
17:45 Beakman's World
18:10 Perfect Strangers
18:35 Saved by the Bell
19:00 Showbiz
19:30 World News Tonight
20:00 Cosby
20:25 Mr. Bean
20:50 Major Dad
21:15 Diagnosis Murder
22:05 Matlock
23:00 CNN
23:30 The 700 Club
00:00 Quantum Shopping

CABLE

ITV 4 (33)

18:00 Cartoons
18:30 Panorama
17:00 Adventures and Challenges
18:00 Her Majesty's
18:30 News in Arabic
20:00 News
20:00 International Art Magazine
21:15 The Browning Version (1951) - 90-minute drama set in a British private school. With Michael Redgrave. Directed by Anthony Asquith
22:45 The Duchess of Duke Street
23:35 Jazz into the Night

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 All Together Now
16:10 Wildlife in Russia
16:30 Investigative Eye
17:00 Fruits of the Earth
17:15 Milestones in Science and Technology
17:30 Faces of Culture
18:00 Basic Arabic
18:30 Family Connections
19:00 Computers and the Internet
19:10 Vis & Vis
19:50 Hello Prima
20:00 A New Evening
20:30 Cybernews
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20:45 Recess
21:10 The Cosby Show
21:45 Star Trek: Voyager
22:05 Red and Steve
22:30 Love Story with Yossi Sassi
23:00 Service

SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Boy Meets Girl (French, 1994) - slybed comedy in 3-D by Leos Carax taking place in nighttime Paris.
20:45 The Hidden Fortress (Japanese, 1958) - Akira Kurosawa epic which inspired Lucas's Star Wars. With Toshirō Mifune.
6:00 Open University (rtl)
8:00 Wings of the Red Star, part 2 (rtl)

PRIME TIME TV

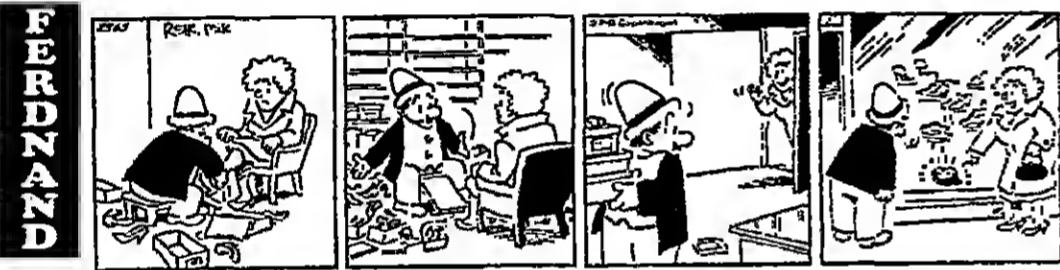
Table with 6 columns (1-6) and 6 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs and channels.

Table with 6 columns (1-6) and 6 rows (9:00-13:00) listing TV programs and channels.

Table with 6 columns (1-6) and 6 rows (13:00-17:00) listing TV programs and channels.

Table with 6 columns (1-6) and 6 rows (17:00-21:00) listing TV programs and channels.

Table with 6 columns (1-6) and 6 rows (21:00-23:00) listing TV programs and channels.



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Cryptic crossword puzzle with clues and grid.

SOLUTIONS for the cryptic crossword puzzle.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword puzzle with clues and grid.

MOVIES

Movie listings for various theaters including Jerusalem, Hadera, Ramat Gan, and others.

מסגרת ארבע

# Knesset in summer session

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset is to open its summer session this afternoon with a policy address by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. In the morning, Netanyahu is to appear before the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, which has been meeting during the recess.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon told parliamentary reporters yesterday he expects the summer session, which ends August 1, to focus on all the issues on the public agenda, including: security and diplomatic policy; religious-secular relations; Ashkenazi-Sephardi tensions; relations with the Diaspora; and signs of an economic recession.

Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen said he would immediately submit a motion calling for the dissolution of the Knesset and early elections, saying the Netanyahu government has failed in all fields and "completely neglected the peace process."

Hadash is threatening to file a no-confidence motion over the strike by the local authorities. The faction is expected to meet with the prime minister this evening.

Meretz MK Dedi Zucker has submitted four bills based on the principle of separating public services for the religious and secular.

The bills include: an amendment to the Planning and Construction Law, which would allow for the building of new neighborhoods or communities dedicated specifically for one sector, to allow people to choose in what kind of neighborhood they want to live; a bill calling for separate religious councils for different streams of Judaism, including Conservative and Reform; separate radio and television channels for the religious to avoid conflict over limited air time on the existing public stations; and autonomous school systems, like the state-religious system, for other Jewish streams.

The House is to hold a special session tomorrow to mark the 39th birthday of missing IAF navigator Ron Arad. The meeting, initiated by coalition and Likud faction chairman Michael Eitan, is to include a satellite link-up and discussion with British and German parliamentarians and live coverage on the Internet (<http://www.ron-arad.org.il>).

## Knesset renovations unveiled

By LIAT COLLINS

MKS may be more comfortable when the Knesset opens its summer session today. There are new and improved toilets (cost: NIS 260,000) and plans for special chairs in the plenum which can be adjusted to fit the width of the individual parliamentarian.

These are just two of the improvements revealed by Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon yesterday in a meeting with parliamentary reporters. Other innovations include a new cafeteria on the roof and a health club complete with fitness coaches - donated by an unnamed Canadian. These should be opening shortly.

Tichon said that the Knesset faces a major image problem with the public - which customized chairs are unlikely to improve - but noted that part of the problem is the absence of MKs and ministers in plenum sessions, even though they might be present elsewhere in the House.

The Speaker said he is hoping to entice more MKs to sit in on sessions and for the first time records will be made and published of the number of votes in which an individual MK participates.

One plan to attract the parliamentarians into the plenum is to start holding a British-style question time,

in which individual ministers would present a short review of the work in their offices and then have to answer questions fired at them by MKs without having had a chance to prepare the answers in advance.

"The object is to make things more a bit more lively," Tichon said. Among the first expected to be questioned are National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav and Finance Minister Dan Meridor. No dates has been finalized for the sessions.

Other parliamentarians are expected to undergo even more rigorous interrogations. Tichon implied that police also may be questioning MKs, though he refused to give details.

The public committee headed by Moshe Nissim which is examining the subject of parliamentary immunity is expected to submit a draft of its recommendations at the end of the month.

Asked about possible changes to the Basic Law: The Government, known as the Direct Elections Law, Tichon said he would do his utmost to ensure that amendments concerning such issues as the dissolution of the Knesset or removal of the prime minister would not come into force in this Knesset, but only after the elections of the year 2000.



At the grave of Chaim Herzog yesterday are (from left) his children Ronit, Michael, Joel, and Isaac, and (second from right) his widow Aura. (Brian Hestler)

## Chaim Herzog remembered

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Chaim Herzog, the nation's sixth president, will be remembered as a soldier of distinction who unfailingly responded to the call to serve his nation and his people, both in and out of uniform.

This was the common thread of the eulogies delivered yesterday at a tombstone unveiling service on Mount Herzl, where he is buried among the Leaders of the Nation; and later at a memorial ceremony at the Jerusalem Theater to mark the conclusion of a 30-day period following his death.

Still wearing their beards of mourning, his sons Joel, Michael, and Isaac recited *Kaddish*, after which Israel's fourth president, Ephraim Katzir, reviewed the broad mosaic of Herzog's achievements as a soldier, statesman, and "loyal messenger of the public." Katzir also noted that Herzog was the first governor of a Jerusalem "which was all ours."

Katzir said that he had been happy when

Herzog agreed to serve a second term because he represented a bridge between the different sectors of the population and between Israel and the Diaspora.

The fifth president, Yitzhak Navon, added the dimension of visionary to the comprehensive Herzog image, saying that it was almost prophetic that Herzog, soon after becoming president, had spoken of the paradox which now confronts the nation. Herzog had remarked then that the closer Israel gets to an accommodation with her enemies, the greater the danger verbal and physical violence, intolerance, extremism, violation of democratic principles from within.

Quoting Herzog, Navon said that these may be the greatest hazards confronting us since our independence. To underscore that point, he remarked, that Yitzhak Rabin, "whose death represents the blind bared to which Herzog had been alert" lies buried nearby.

At the Jerusalem Theater, Herzog's eldest son, Joel, poignantly read from an olive-

wood-bound Book of Psalms which Herzog's grandfather Joel (after whom the son is named) had given him and which also bore an inscription from Herzog's father, Chief Rabbi Isaac Halevi Herzog. The book had accompanied Herzog throughout World War II and throughout all the wars of Israel in which he had participated. It had been handed on to Joel in 1967, when he was inducted into the IDF.

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and former Supreme Court president Meir Shamgar spoke of Herzog's unstinting devotion to the cause of Zionism and national security and the principles which he bequeathed to the nation as a legacy.

His voice almost cracking with emotion, Abba Eban, Herzog's brother-in-law, former comrade in arms, fellow gladiator in the arena of the United Nations, political colleague, and lifelong friend, said that when news of Herzog's death reached him, "I felt as if the sun had gone down in the morning."

| WEATHER   |       | Galun     |
|-----------|-------|-----------|
| Hafia     | 14-29 | Tiberias  |
| Asula     | 21-35 | Jerusalem |
| Sunaria   | 17-30 | Beersheva |
| Tel Aviv  | 18-30 | Dead Sea  |
| Jerusalem | 19-32 |           |
| Beersheva | 19-32 |           |
| Dead Sea  | 27-40 |           |

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Rise in temperatures.

### AROUND THE WORLD

|              | Low | High | Wind | Cloud | Remarks |
|--------------|-----|------|------|-------|---------|
| Berlin       | 15  | 69   | 28   | 79    | partly  |
| Buenos Aires | 16  | 64   | 38   | 79    | cloudy  |
| Cairo        | 17  | 63   | 35   | 85    | clear   |
| Dublin       | 10  | 48   | 18   | 84    | rain    |
| Frankfurt    | 11  | 51   | 22   | 72    | partly  |
| Geneva       | 10  | 51   | 22   | 72    | rain    |
| Helsinki     | 17  | 54   | 20   | 85    | rain    |
| Hong Kong    | 25  | 77   | 30   | 85    | cloudy  |
| Jakarta      | 23  | 37   | 30   | 70    | clear   |
| London       | 12  | 54   | 20   | 85    | rain    |
| Los Angeles  | 10  | 50   | 22   | 72    | partly  |
| Madrid       | 12  | 54   | 22   | 72    | rain    |
| Manila       | 24  | 38   | 16   | 61    | clear   |
| Moscow       | 12  | 39   | 20   | 85    | partly  |
| Munich       | 12  | 54   | 20   | 85    | cloudy  |
| Nairobi      | 15  | 69   | 28   | 79    | clear   |
| Paris        | 17  | 63   | 24   | 72    | partly  |
| Rome         | 15  | 69   | 28   | 79    | clear   |
| Sydney       | 14  | 57   | 22   | 72    | cloudy  |
| Tokyo        | 16  | 61   | 24   | 77    | partly  |
| Toronto      | 17  | 54   | 14   | 84    | partly  |
| Vienna       | 16  | 61   | 20   | 85    | clear   |
| Zurich       | 15  | 59   | 25   | 77    | rain    |

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VALID TO 10/5/97 - 20/6/97

### Winning cards

In yesterday's Chance Drawings, the winning cards were the 7 of spades, 10 of hearts, ace of diamonds, and 7 of clubs; and the king of spades, queen of hearts, 9 of diamonds, and queen of clubs.



## ISRAEL'S ECONOMY IS ON THE MOVE.

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- Highly competitive interest rates
- No estate duties, tax free interest in Israel
- Funds transferable worldwide.

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## Nurses to strike tomorrow

By JUDY SIEGEL

Some 2,000 public health nurses around the country will launch an open-ended strike tomorrow. The nurses work in 500 family health (*tipat halav*) stations, providing immunizations and early diagnosis of disabilities in infants, supervising pregnancies, monitoring infectious disease in their area and providing advice to the elderly.

Nurses union chief Diana Cohen said that due to a labor dispute between the Health Ministry and the local authorities, the entire public health nursing service is in danger.

The Bat Yam Municipality recently announced the closing of a number of stations in the city after refusing to pay its share to maintain them. The municipality

claimed that after the passage of the national health insurance law, the health funds are responsibility for providing such services to their members.

The first *tipat halav* stations were established by the Hadassah Medical Organization in Jerusalem; as their numbers grew, municipalities took responsibility for them. According to a decade-old agreement with seven municipalities (Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Ramat Gan, Petah Tikva, Bnei Brak, Bat Yam and Holon), the ministry covers 70 percent of the costs, with the local authority paying the rest. (In other areas, the health funds have for years had responsibility for the services.) As a result, said Cohen, the nurses and the general public have become "hostages" of this dispute.

## Nine council heads begin hunger strike

By DAVID HARRIS

Nine local council heads yesterday decided to stage a hunger strike outside the Prime Minister's Office as part of their ongoing campaign for more government funding.

The nine - from Sderot, Dimona, Kiryat Malachi, Yavne, Hazor Haglilit, Gan Yavne, Nesher, Arad, and Or Yehuda - said they will not eat until Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu answers their demands.

The Union of Local Authorities (ULA) claims that Netanyahu had promised to discuss the issue with Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Interior Minister Eli Shussan on Saturday night, but no such meeting was held.

Now, the ULA said it will step up its action in specific areas.

Today, the education system will return to normal, ending three days of strikes, however some 240 local councils will remain closed, except for emergency services and refuse collection.

Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz lent his support to the ULA action, saying if called upon he will actively cooperate with the local authorities.

Meanwhile, the Histadrut announced that as soon as the authority heads end their strike, the 80,000 local council employees will walk off the job. They will be protesting the ULA agreement with the Finance Ministry that wages will have to be lowered.

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### INAUGURATION OF THE CAROL AND MELVIN S. TAUB CHAIR IN APPLIED MEDICAL PHYSICS

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Professor Avraham Katzir  
Incumbent of the Chair

Light in Medicine  
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